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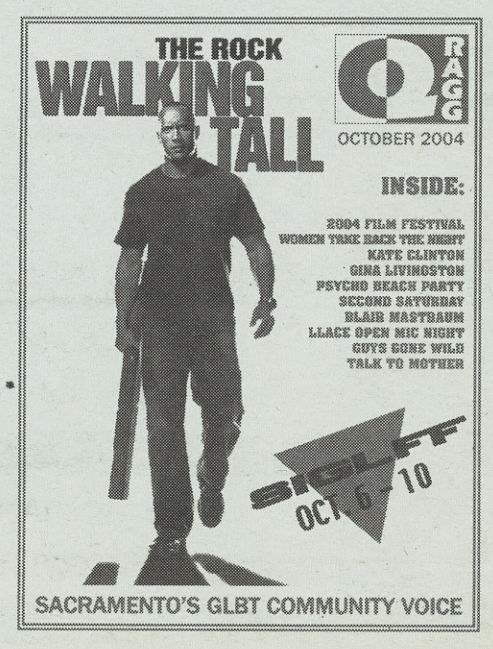

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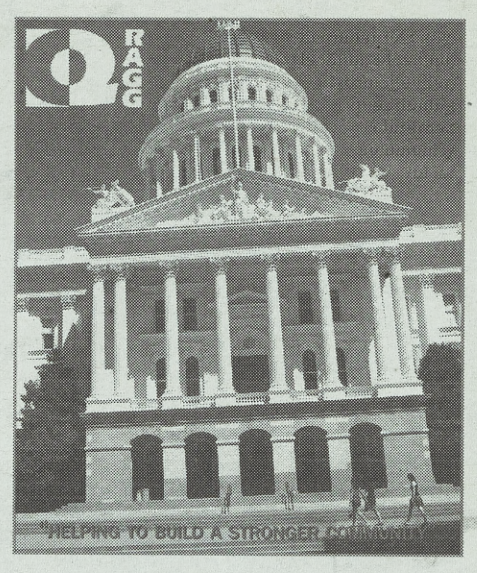

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NEWSLINE 916.247.7244 • FAXLINE 916.442.4009 • WWW.Q-RAGG.COM

PUBLISHER
LARRY MCFALL
PUBLISHER@Q-RAGG.COM

EDITOR-DESIGNER
MATTHEW BURLINGAME
EDITOR@Q-RAGG.COM

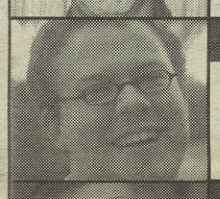
WRITER
RICKY DIAZ ANAYA
RANAYA@Q-RAGG.COM

COLUMNIST
SAM CATALANO
SCATALANO@Q-RAGG.COM

WRITER
SHIRA DAVIDA GOLDBERG
SGOLDBERG@Q-RAGG.COM

PHOTOGRAPHER
CURT HAGEN
CHAGEN@Q-RAGG.COM

WRITER
BOYCE HINMAN
BHINMAN@Q-RAGG.COM


REVIEWER
BRIAN JUDD
BJUDD@Q-RAGG.COM

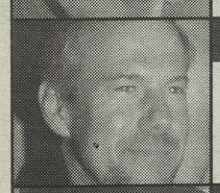
WRITER
M.A. ROSS
MROSS@Q-RAGG.COM

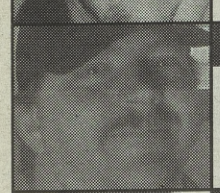
COLUMNIST
DANIEL ROTH
DROTH@Q-RAGG.COM

WRITER
TOM SWANNER
TSWANNER@Q-RAGG.COM

PHOTO JOURNALIST
JUNE VARGAS
JVARGAS@Q-RAGG.COM

WRITER
CLINT VIGEN
CVIGEN@Q-RAGG.COM


WRITER
DAVID WARPNESS
DWARPNESS@Q-RAGG.COM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Vol. 1, Issue 8 • January 1, 2005 • New Years Issue

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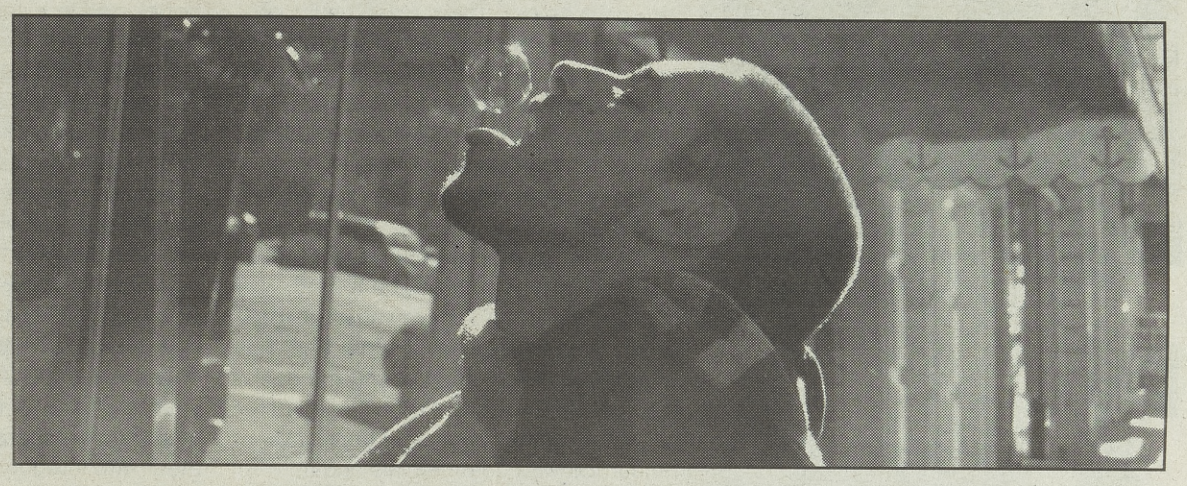

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Q-MUNITY OUR Q

December brought us lots of community fun and involvement this year! With **Sacramento Men's Chorus** and **True Colors Women's Chorus** events, holiday parties and more than a few memorable events around town.

The **Bare-Chested Men** Calendar Signing had ***The Bolt*** so crowded no one could hardly move—but that made it all the more fun when one of the models pushed past in the crowd and pressed against their many wanton admirers. Thanks **Tommy** for hosting this great event! (See photos on page 11).

And don't forget **Drag Queen Bingo** at **Faces**. The room was crowded with folks helping to raise money for our own **Stonewall Democratic Club**! Though I missed the final tally, I didn't miss our sweet **Danny Roth** cutting a rug with the queens and political bear-daddy **Sam Catalano** cheering on the crowd.(See the photos on page 11).

Next up was the **Rainbow Chamber of Commerce** holiday bash hosted by none other than our favorite realtor, **Brian McMartin**. Everyone crowded into that gorgeous new office of his for great food, great company and a lotta fun!

December was a great month for theatre—the ongoing drag show **Pageant** is still going strong at **Studio Theatre** with **Mikey Coleman** and **Scott Griffith**, who both bat for the home team, I'm proud to say. If you haven't seen the show yet, get out and take a look! Call 916/446-2668 for reservations.

Also in theatre, **Return From the Forbidden Planet** closed at city Theatre. The play featured family actors **Juan Ramos**, **John Hancock** and **Trina Palmer**. The show was one of the best **City Theatre** has offered in years, after last Fall's Equus featuring the **Lambda Players' Evan Johnson**, **City Theatre** is definitely becoming a theatrical hotspot.

Saving the best for last—the community is buzzing with excitement over the rumors that the **Lambda Players** have finally leased their own theatre space. It's no rumor! Our own GLBT theatre group has finally found a home thanks to Q-Munity member and taxman extraordinaire **Guy Crouch** (Check out the ad on the back page!) The theatre is set to officially open Feb. 11, 2005 with the world premiere of ***Just Us Girls***, the new play by Sacramento playwright **T. Swanner**. Congrats to **The Players** and **Guy**! (Read the story on page 9)

A health alert scare also began last month when **San Francisco public health officials** issued a warning about a rare and potentially debilitating STD from the Netherlands turning in the city. **Lymphogranuloma venereum**, or LGV, is a form of chlamydia—but this strain can cause genitals and colon scarring, and the swelling and bursting of lymph glands near the groin. LGV is treatable if caught in time, but can take three weeks of antibiotics. So wear your rubber and if you even think you have an STD, head to the doctor right away!

A major surprise for the Q-Munity came last week when the owners of the **Open Book** announced they were selling up in January. **Ron & Larry** of the **Open Book** have been a fixture in **Lavender Heights** since they moved to Sacramento in the '90s and opened the store.

And lastly, many of us lost a good friend last month when longtime resident and **PFLAG** member **Clifford Carte** died from complications of AIDS. You can read more about this wonderful Q-Munity member on page 15.

Q-Ragg wishes you a safe and sane 2005! **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

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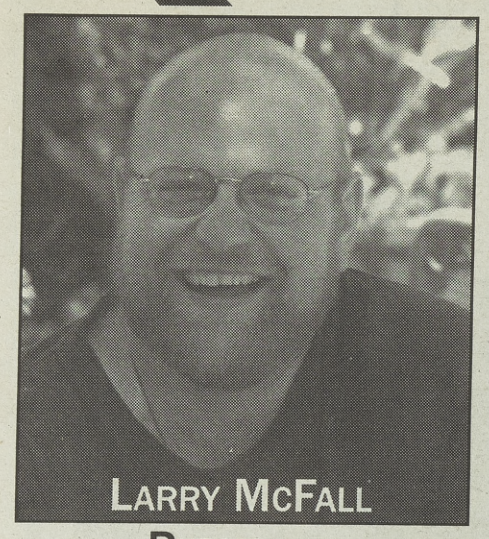
A little help from my friends



LARRY MCFALL
PUBLISHER

TODAY WE WATCH THE SHATTERED CHILDREN OF WAR MOANING ON THE 6 O'CLOCK NEWS, THEIR CRIES MINGLING WITH OUR DINNER CONVERSATION. We hear leaders of the religious right plotting openly to deny us our rights all across America. We realize that as Americans we are ripping up our environment, making forests, blue skies and clean rivers nothing but a memory. We listen to commentators and professors explain the world's problems and blatantly contradict each other. We watch friends trip off into despair, finding no wholeness, no health, no meaning. These are huge problems compared to a small publisher trying to keep alive his dream of belonging to, and enriching, his community.

There are many things I can do that would benefit our community and make a difference, but none, in my eyes, measure up to what we do at Q-Ragg.

Before I started this paper I worked for the County of Sacramento. Monday through Friday I was at work until 6 or 7pm. We were always short-handed in my department, so we worked as many Saturdays as not. There wasn't a lot of free time for me to volunteer regularly to many organizations. I belonged to the Sacramento Valley Bears, which is a social organization, and we did do some fundraising to help others in need, but again, work seemed to hinder the time I could allot.

My entire life I have been taught that giving whatever you have, be it food, time or money is a very rewarding experience, and I've found that to be true. I donate food and clothes during the holidays, but tend to forget other times of the year, probably because I am not bombarded with commercials and it doesn't seem as newsworthy outside of the holidays. I have never had much money or time to give in large quantities, but I give where I can. Then when the opportunity presented itself, I took a leap of faith, quit my job and started The Q-Ragg.

As never before, our world is one of activism and involvement. Some object to the "rebels" of our day and think they should just be quiet and conform, sometimes even comparing them to terrorists in order to scare them into silence. In fact, the word "rebel" has pretty well fallen into disrepute, yet, is it necessarily bad to rebel?

One band of rebels in tattered clothes at Valley Forge helped create a magnificent nation. Jesus Christ, rebelled against the hypocrisy and evil of his day to show the way of love, truth and life. From his one solitary life, in the eyes of many, a world was changed and millions found meaning and hope.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the Kennedys, John F. and Bobby, all gave their lives in the hopes of change for the better, and in a sense were some of the biggest rebels of all.

So when is it right to rebel, and what is it right to rebel against? Some rebel against the established order, but offer little to take its place. Others rebel against the misery and injustice our world holds and offer valid solutions, whether they are heard or not. Be the right kind of rebel—the kind of person who won't be content with the hypocrisies, cheating, and immorality we sometimes face. And in your rebellion, in your uprooting of the evils and the iniquities of contemporary society, replace them with integrity and reality. This is the right kind of rebel.

We have folks and organizations that raise money for charities, help the elderly, care for the sick and homeless, and feed the hungry. These people give their time, money, sweat and tears day after day—and do we thank them? Not nearly enough in my eyes. If we spent more time helping those in need and publicizing what we have and can accomplish, then I feel people would want to play a bigger part in our great community.

These are the principles I founded Q-Ragg on. It was a way to help our community's nonprofits, get out the local news we have been deprived of for years, and help bring a sense of connection back to our constantly growing and changing community. I genuinely feel that with the help of Matt and one of the best newspaper staffs I've ever known, we've definitely changed the information landscape in Sacramento.

As great as that is, I have had to face the facts that I can't do it alone. And so I'm asking for your help. If you own or run a business in the Sacramento area, it's time to support this paper with an ad or coupon. Many of our advertisers have been very satisfied with the response they've gotten from Q-Ragg readers. Plus getting the satisfaction of knowing that they are helping to keep our community's local culture alive, helping to document our history and making it possible for long-silenced local voices to be heard.

If you know of locations where we can distribute Q-Ragg and get the word out to more people within Sacramento, and the immediately surrounding areas, give us a call or email and we'll add them to our distribution list.

If you are a loyal reader of the Q-Ragg, remember to frequent our advertisers or even just call them and let them know you appreciate them supporting your local newspaper, telling local stories about local people, and thank them for all they do to allow us to get you the news. The ads in our pages aren't just faceless businesses, they are placed by caring community members who want to support not just a newspaper, but YOU. In a time when we could realistically lose every right we have gained, we need to support GLBT businesses and organizations every chance we can.

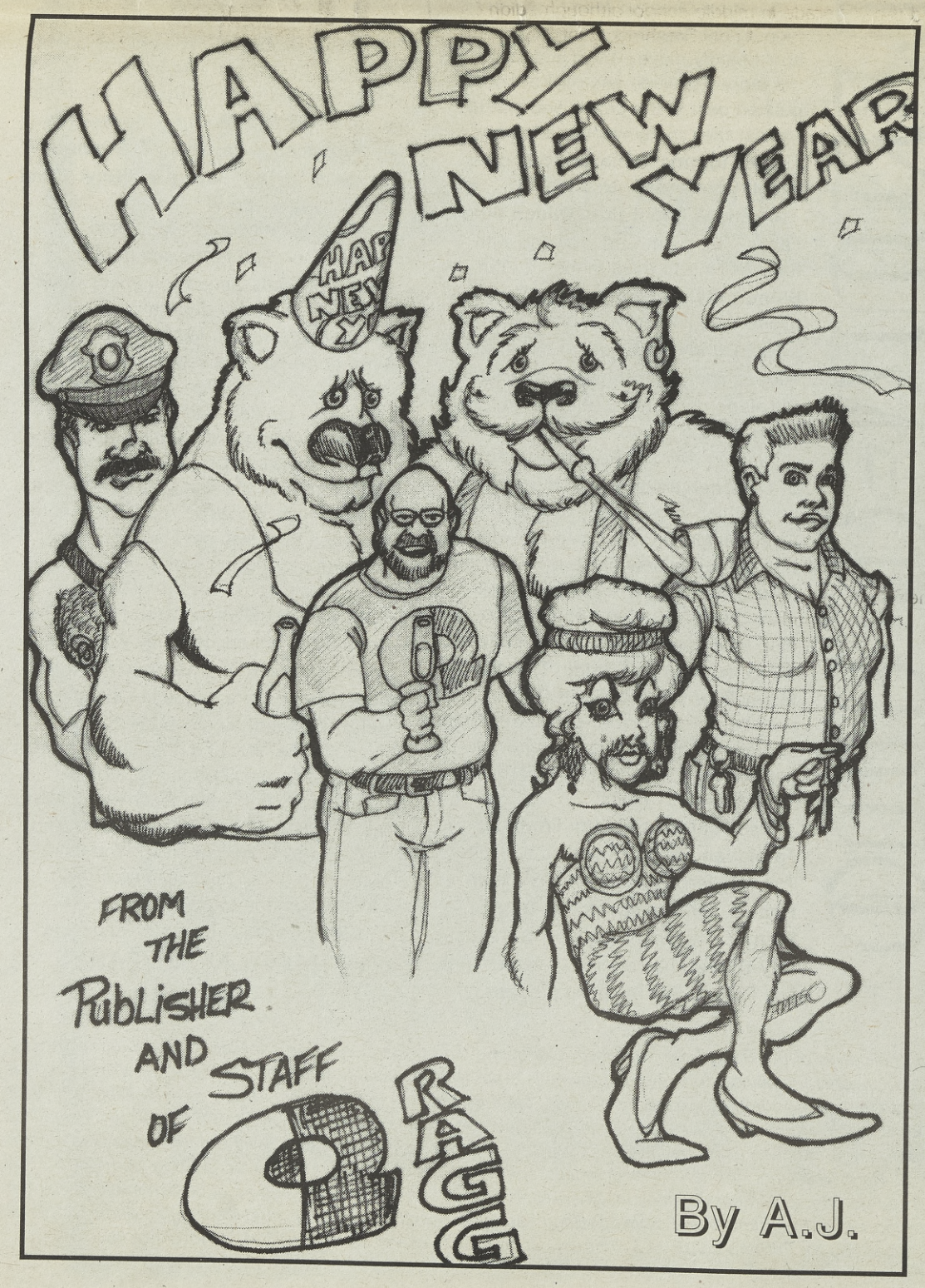
Next time you are going out for the evening, stop in at FACES or the BOLT and have a drink, they have been great supporters of not only this paper, but the entire community for years. Tax time is coming soon, give Guy Crouch a call and ask him to help you with your taxes. Let someone who is family take care of all those tax questions. If you are buying or selling a house, or know someone who is, tell them about Brian McMartin and give them his number. Need insurance, call David Larson at Farmers. You can get all your printing needs at Sir Speedy, in the downtown mall. Larry and Skott are very supportive to the community and have been wonderful to the nonprofits in our community, going above and beyond, again and again.

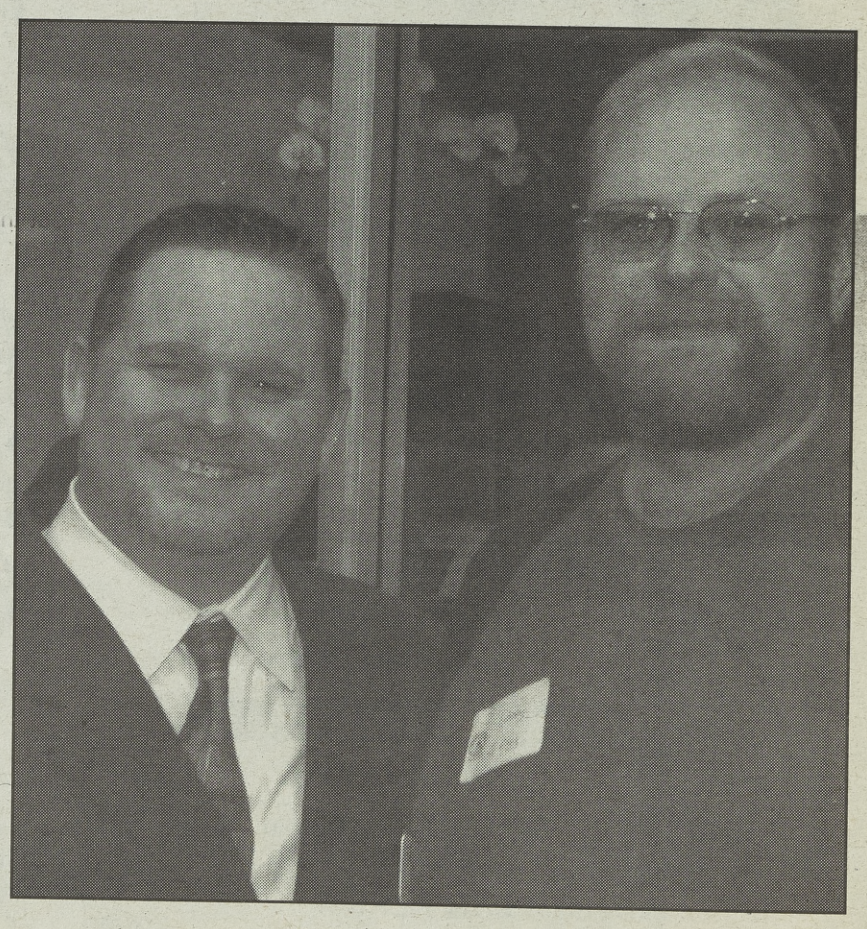
And finally, we want you to write to us and tell us what you want to see in the paper, if you like or don't like something, let us know. Tell us about your events so we can tell the community what is happening in and around Sacramento.

This newspaper is a community collective, it mirrors all parts of our community, and we want to be sure you see your reflection in that mirror, too.

So please help me to achieve my goal of making a difference in Sacramento! All we need is a little help from our friends.

PUBLISHER@Q-RAGG.COM





LARRY AND Q-MUNITY ICON BRIAN MCMARTIN

These Kids Today

By Ricky Diaz Anaya/Q-Ragg

IT'S AMAZING WHAT RESOURCES LGBT YOUTH HAVE NOWADAYS IN SACRAMENTO—ESPECIALLY WHEN IT COMES TO NIGHTCLUB LIFE.

Over the past three months I've been visiting Bojangles Dance Club, which has a 27-year history in the Sacramento Valley. Bojangles was started by Faces owner Terry Sidie on Folsom Blvd (near 65th) back in 1976. Though the place was sold years later, the owners continued the Wednesday Night Bojangles tradition until the building caught fire in 1999.

These days Bojangles, recently voted SN&R's best 18+ venue, comes to life every Sunday and Wednesday night inside Club 21 (1119 21st St.). There's no cover on Sundays, which usually packs between 150-200+ energetic LGBT youth onto the dance floor, grooving to Latin beats ranging from Cumbia to Salsa to Reaggeaton; then when they're all warmed up, they finish the night with House, Dance, and Hip Hop. Markie Mark, the resident DJ never misses a beat and knows how to keep the floor crowded. On Wednesday's he throws down solid house, then keeps it alive with Hi-Energy and Trance.

In the past, Bojangles has had theme nights including "Club Kids in Candyland"—a parody of the board game and patterned after the club kids who would dress in wild outfits put together from items in their closets and garages—most club kid wear rivaled the L.A. club scene.

According to Club manager Michael Hlyzoff, theme nights are often a huge success and include pajama parties, military dress, and even underwear theme nights.

In addition he adds that on Sundays they have an improvisational drag show at midnight. It is clear that the crowd loves the shows too…just imagine how hard it is keeping the attention of several hundred youth for half an hour. Michael also adds that they strictly enforce ID requirements and that the safety of the patrons is top priority.

Other Bojangles entertainment includes amateur strip night, dance exhibitions from guest performers as well as audience members, and a sexy "best buns" contests. Michael also let it be known that Wednesday at Bojangles is the busiest night of the week and easily packs in 300+ youth throughout the evening leaving long wait lines outside the club.

I met up with Jenn: a 19-year-old who identifies as "straight, but I've had experiences and want more", Matt: a vibrant 20-year-old who identifies as "controversial", and Joe who is 19 years old and identifies as bisexual.

"I love how free the atmosphere is here, everyone can be themselves without fear of homophobes. It's a place where people my age can connect," says Joe.

"[The atmosphere] makes you feel free. The music is off the hook! You just go with the flow," Jenn adds.

"I'm introverted outside of work," says Matt. "I come here to have fun. I feel really comfortable dancing—even though I don't know how to dance—and nobody cares."

All three attend American River College and make the trek each week to Bojangles.

EDGAR C. IS AN 18-YEAR-OLD GAY LATINO WHO COMMUTES FROM NAPA TO VISIT FRIENDS AND GO OUT TO BOJANGLES. "I ENJOY THIS CLUB BECAUSE I GET TO MEET A LOT OF OTHER PEOPLE MY AGE THAT HAVE GONE THROUGH SIMILAR EXPERIENCES. I hate using clichés, but I have been looking for that 'special someone'. I have faced a lot of challenges being gay, which is why I moved out of my conservative Latino family's home. My mother had a hard time dealing with me being gay and to this day I am terrified of my father. Also, I lost a lot of my straight friends when they found out I was gay."

Antonio is the youngest of six brothers. "Two of us are gay and I discovered my sexuality when I was in the seventh grade in middle school although I didn't come out until Freshman year. My brother is three years older than I and came out to my family and everyone was very supportive. Six months later, I decided I wanted to be who I was instead of what people thought I was. Being gay to me wasn't just about sex, it was about having a partner to care about and live for and with.

"This made me realize I wanted to be with someone of the same sex. So I came out to my family and they were quite surprised; I thought that they knew because they knew about my older brother. Ever since being out, I feel much better, I have more friends who are like me and understand me. I am now a Planned Parenthood educator and I was past president of my high school's GSA club."

Bojangles is more than a nightclub for the 18+ crowd, it is a place of freedom and empowerment to today's GLBT youth; a place where they can shed their cares and break loose with others who are just like them.

For more information on Bojangles, it's history and events, log on to: clubbojangles.com/

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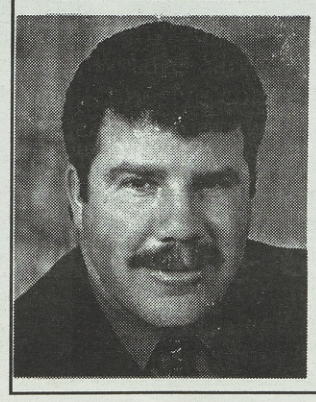

David C. Larson
Insurance and Financial Services Agent
FARMERS
1613 Eureka Rd., Suite 300
Roseville, CA 95661
Business (916) 788-4215 Fax (916) 783-9047
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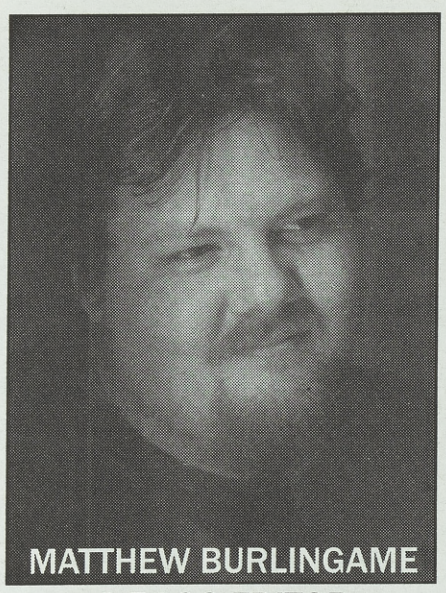

MATTHEW BURLINGAME
Q-RAGG EDITOR

Kindergarten. Age 5. I was the epitome of the all-american boy. I lived on a ranch in the better side of town, new how to write and read at a more advanced level then many of the other students. I knew how to share, clean up after myself, and I thought everything that happened in school was magic. This is of course back in the days where kindergartners were taught how to write their name and fingerpaint, not identify sentence structure.

But I was just like any other kid. Until that fateful moment, one morning when we were allowed freetime with the toys. I committed a HUGE, unforgivable sin. Beating the crap out of another child with a plastic hammer, I hear you ask. Nope, it was worse.

One of the little girls and I decided we were going to play house. What could be cuter? Apparently not role reversal, as I decided to stay at home and cook and take care of the kids, while she went out and worked.

While some might say we were merely ahead of our time, in the early 70s, this sent a big red flag up that never went down.

Still, it never deterred me from the certainty that one day I would get married and be a father. This is what every TV show, fairytale, movie, and relative reinforced, and I never questioned it—even when my bride changed to a groom.

Then came the day when I realized fully what it was to be gay. Back in the '80s that meant no kids, no civil unions, no marriage, and you were going to get AIDS and die anyway. Once I realized marriage was something that would never be on the agenda for me, that none of those fairytales were about the Prince and another man having a happily ever after, my marriage day dreams faded into the distance.

In this century, some things have changed. Kids are definitely an option—whether biological or adopted, some places have managed to get civil union laws passed (for the moment) and while AIDS is still a nightmare for our community, education and assistance has improved in some ways. But still no marriage rights for us queers.

I've only attended one of the many het weddings I've been invited to over the years—my father's third marriage—which has ended in divorce proceedings. It was a quickie marriage in Reno and pretty unromantic if you ask me. So my vision of marriage as an archaic ritual of government remained in tact.

It wasn't until the marriage uproar last year that the thought of gay marriage even crossed my mind again. Watching the events unfold, and watching couple after couple return with their now annulled marriage licenses, beaming with joy...just made me roll my eyes. Don't get me wrong, I was happy for them, but like a homeless kid asking Santa for a present, you don't get your hopes up, until that package is wrapped, tagged and in your hands. Even then you're waiting for it to be snatched away. And it was.

Since I never gave marriage a second thought, imagine my surprise when two of my closest friends from college, Theresa and Bobby, asked me to perform their wedding ceremony. They remembered that a few years ago I had joined the ranks of Kate Clinton and other...internet users...to become a Reverend of the Universalist Life Church. So, I have the power to marry anyone with a valid marriage license,

I was a little freaked out on two levels. The first being I had never performed a marriage ceremony before. The other, that I was denied the right to marry who I loved, yet I was being asked to marry...breeders. See Alanis, that is an example of real irony.

I agreed to officiate the marriage, but I still felt a horrible nagging feeling like I was some sort of sell out. In fact , there were several times I came close to backing out. But Theresa has this way of making you not want to turn her down...quite frankly, she'll kick your ass.

I met Theresa when we were assigned as partners in a Shakespeare class at city college. She was then a fresh-faced theatre student who was working toward a degree in children's theatre (she's addicted to fairytales), and together we tackled Hamlet—her as Ophelia and I as the Ham-man himself. By the end of the exercizes, I had hit her in the head with stuffed animals, manhandled her, and made that nunnery look pretty damn good. Since then, we have been fast friends.

Bobby came into her life as a friend of a friend who was into skateboarding and Dungeons and Dragons, and found himself with an unrequited crush on our heroine. But much like the lyrics of the Avril song goes, "...he was a skater boy, she said see ya later boy...."

Yes Bobby's crush was the talk of the theatre clique and Theresa just wanted it to stop. That is until one fateful day when she turned and saw him in a very different way. What was it that changed? Who knows. But our mouths all dropped the day we saw them approaching our hang out at the theatre department hand in hand.

But from that day on, there was never a question in our minds that they had something special. How could I refuse them?

I was up until 4am the week before their wedding writing the vows. They decided to be married on Halloween—weird for some, for these two it was *perfect*. They wanted something non-traditional as they both suffered from religious trauma. So where do I look for non-traditional? Um, to our community, of course. I took a portion of the vows from gay marriage ceremonies. And on Halloween, at a local winery, I walked down the aisle ahead of a very nervous and joyous groom and turned to wait for the bride.

When she appeared, my heart caught in my throat. Her dress a bright white, fashioned after the Elf Princess in Lord of the Rings, a veil lightly draped over her head, she made her way down the aisle. The guests cried, the parents cried, the groom cried, the bridesmaids cried, and I tried desperately not to, otherwise I wouldn't be able to get a word out.

And within a matter of minutes, I spoke those words I had heard in so many movies and TV shows, but never thought twice about. "I now pronounce you man and wife." I then followed it with, "You can kiss the groom", which if you knew Tsa, is very fitting.

As they walked back down the aisle to *The Monster Mash*, I reflected on what had just happened. I had pronounced two people "man and wife." Rather archaic, no? Was I collaborator? My community didn't have the right, but I helped the other side continue the cycle.

It was right after that I sat down next to one of the bridesmaids, who is a total fag-hag-in-training. Out of the blue, she began telling me how she had gay friends and she was really cool with gay people. "I tell my straight friends all the time that gays are just people like everyone else and I'll have gay friends if I want to." I told her I tell my gay friends the same thing about having straight friends. She didn't get the sarcasm, but I'm kinda glad. After all, to us, something like that may be a little insulting. To her, that is activism, and every time she tells someone she'll have gay friends if she wants to, it is one more step to our institutionalized equality.

As for being a collaborator ... well, I made a New Year's resolution not to be so dramatic, so I let go ... let go and let God(ess). I do know I will never forget being a part of that ceremony. Archaic a ritual as it may be, it was beautiful, and I thank Tsa and Bob for making me a part of that.

I just hope one day I'll be able to officiate same-sex weddings. Right now, it's merely a fairytale. But as I've now seen, fairytales can come true.

Here's hoping we all get our "happily ever after" soon.

EDITOR@Q-RAGG.COM

The vows written for the day above

Once upon a time, in a land not so very far away, a scruffy young boy gazed upon an engaging young princess, and instantly lost his heart to her. And even though the princess needed some convincing, she eventually came around. And when she at last looked at him, she saw not a scruffy young boy, but instead, her knight in shining armor. Today, the 31st day of the 10th month, the day when the spirits walk the earth, those present, and those past, gather to witness the union, of these two beautiful children.

Robert and Theresa, you have come here today to strengthen the weave of your life together. This weave is sewn with the threads of the love, hope and commitment you share with one another. On this day, witnessed by all, you are promising to share with one another your joys and your sorrows, your riches and your hardships, your most cherished dreams and your deepest desires. You pledge to one another, to be partners in life, and to always help the other be stronger and grow wiser. And you pledge to always listen to one another, both to their words, and when there are no words, you must listen to their heart, for that is where you can hear them the clearest.

Love is patient and kind; it is not jealous or boastful; Love is understanding and forgiving, it doesn't insist on always having its own way; and it doesn't rejoice at the other's wrong. Love believes in all things, endures all things, and outlives all things. *Love never ends*. May the love you have for one another live within your hearts today, tomorrow, and for eternity. Robert, Theresa, are you ready to make this commitment to one another?

Robert, repeat after me: I, Robert Deal Stribling III ask you Theresa Marie Vann to be my cherished wife to accept my promise to laugh with you when you are happy to weep with you when you are sad to give you the best of myself for all the remaining days of my life.

Theresa, do you accept this promise from Robert? (I do.) Please place your ring of promise on her finger.

Theresa, repeat after me: I, Theresa Marie Vann ask you Robert Deal Stribling III to be my cherished husband to accept my promise to laugh with you when you are happy to weep with you when you are sad to give you the best of myself for all the remaining days of my life.

Robert, do you accept this promise from Theresa? (I do.) Please place your ring of promise on his finger.

Throughout the world, the ring is a sign of eternity, as it has no beginning and no end. These rings are the symbol of the love you share, and the promises you have made, and accepted, today. And when the world has let you down, and you are trapped by your fears, let these rings guide you to one another, and the love that will always be waiting there for you.

Now...so that you may both live happily ever after...by the power vested in me by the State of California, I now pronounce you man and wife. You may kiss the groom.

There's No Honor Among Thieves

By M.A. Ross, Q-Ragg

There is a lot of talk lately about morality and sin. It was quite the topic of discussion this being a presidential election year (2004). Some say it was the ol' religious high horse of morality & the saddle of sin what put that sum-bitch Bush back in the white house. (Why is it that he gets to ride that high horse and we're the ones getting all the saddle sores?) There has been so much shocking talk of sexual morals and sins of the flesh in the last few years that some of the other sins seem to have been left behind or forgotten completely. We have (had) an attorney general (Ashcroft) who had the artfully pert breasts of lady justice completely covered, because of his own moral weaknesses, and as if the irony of that was not thick enough to walk on… There was the "Tit-antic" half time show at the super bowl that "accidentally" exposed a single breast by one Ms. Jackson. (I can call her that because I'm nasty!) Although I bet ya' more people will stop turning away from the half time shows now, as long as the latest busty babe takes the stage. All this on a "wholesome" sports program that not only advertises alcohol as the fuel of fun, pills for men with limp-shrimp peckers, but also has scanty clad women flaunting their cleavage and other assets for the soul purpose of titillation!

Then there are the cases that the FCC has brought against radio personalities like Opie & Anthony, Howard Stern, and Bubba The Love Sponge. The morality sharks at the FCC smelling the sin in the water have gone into a feeding frenzy on the first amendment rights of certain out spoken Americans. (Especially for those Americans with anti-Bush leanings… for some reason.) These shock talk jocks and their crass programming aren't really my cup of tea, but I think that if the FCC feels the need to censor this kind of talk, they might as well look into quashing the type of radio and television that I find particularly offensive. Like the frantic & fascist ranting of Michael Savage, the fecundity of fear and loathing that spews from Jerry Falwell, or the outright homo-hatred steaming live from Rob, Arnie and Dawn! Puritanical sexual morality and peccadilloes of the flesh seem to be the sins of the season and just enough reason to whittle away at our first amendment. But there is one sin that seems to be escaping the watchful eye of these holy voters! That'd be the almost forgotten and now celebrated sin of greed!

I guess the members of the *The 700 Club* care more about homosexuals getting married that it does about "Grandma Millie" losing her life savings to the blatant corporate criminals of Enron! I presume as long as Ol' Kenny-boy Lay's cronies kept their pants on and didn't swear on the public airwaves the Moral Majority doesn't mind. Steal grandma's purse and go to jail, steal her life savings and it's off to the Club Fed golf course for a quick nine months! So why do we let white-collar criminals off so easily? Are we not complaining to the right people? Is it that the people we trusted to take care of these problems have been bought and sold by the very criminals that we were meant to be protected from? Is it because they think that what they are doing isn't wrong? Didn't anyone tell them that greed does not justify theft? Did the thought of mounds of money muddle their moral priorities? I say a thief is still a thief no matter how much they steal or how they stole it; the punishment should fit the crime. Let's see how these corporate crooks like living on a low dollar fixed income and when they have a little money saved up; have someone come along and steal it from right under their noses. If they dare complain, just tell them that it's nothing-personal just business.

Where is the moral outrage of Fox family man Shawn Hannity when prosperous companies like Wal-Mart and Nike slither through corporate loopholes and pay next to nothing in taxes, while it pays its workers & struggling 3rd world manufacturers a pittance and still makes money hand over fist. Don't you think the weight on the corporate side of those fair trade scales has become a little lopsided? What's moral about paying overseas (sometimes underage) workers pocket change for their labor, while charging a 300% or more mark up back here in the states and pocketing the profit? Now before you call me a socialist let me tell you that I'm all for commerce & profit, on the bedrock condition that its business practices are ethical! Do companies really need all that money for another billion-dollar ad blitz to sell things that have already been advertised excessively? I'd be happy if even half the money spent on advertising went to improving the life of the workers who make the products. This means a real living wage and safe working conditions for everyone who works. This in-turn improves the lives of their family members and the countries they reside in. You'd be surprised how that little bit of extra cash could reduce the amounts of stress and suffering in the world.

Where is Fred Phelps with his picket lines and clever signs when insurance companies weasel out of paying claims so that they can keep the money for themselves? Do they really need the money to keep insurance CEO's in expensive suits, gas guzzling cars, and office space that look more like ultra modern churches or tax-blotted government offices than places of business? All those things that insurance companies and the pros that run that racket fritter away money on; the suits, the expensive luxury items, and the lavish office space are all designed to impress and intimidate. They do all of this so they can try to make you and themselves feel lofty and important. This way they can effortlessly reject your claims for minor reasons, keep the money you paid in, and so that you won't complain too much when they raise your rates… Yet again! Just because you dared submit a claim for your own money! I thought the reason it was called insurance was that it was to in-sure that you had money to fall back on in case something happened, not to in-sure a lot of grief and claim rejection when it comes time to pay up!

Where is the principled indignity of Operation Rescue when cigarette manufacturers get tax money from the government to advertise their toxic products overseas? I guess it's ok to kill fully-grown people provided that it's done slowly over time and as long as they don't live in the same country. By advertising and selling the smooth flavor of death overseas cigarette manufacturers have a new customer base they can poison, they have no fear of lawsuits and still turn a major profit. What's moral about tax money going to poisoning people instead of helping them build a better life? I'm sure the same senators who flip their wigs about two guys kissing on television are the same ones who get all the tobacco lobby kick backs and don't lose an ounce of sleep over the factory farms in their states that produce lethal tobacco products.

So now when those high horse people start to moralize to you about how sinfully your "lifestyle" is; just let them know while they were so busy minding everyone else's morals they forgot about the virtues of justice, equality and kindness. Morals are just a test of one's will power, but putting into practice the virtue of one's moral convictions is what *makes you human! It's our right and* responsibility as part of the human race to call upon others to maintain their virtues and practice what they preach!

MROSS@Q-RAGG.COM

In Defense of Judicial Independence

By Daniel Roth, President of the Stonewall Democratic Club of Greater Sacramento

In 2003 the Chief Justice of the United States William Rehnquist, a jurist not known for his liberal ideology, told a group of law students, "Judicial independence is one of the touchstones of our constitutional system of government. I like to think that the belief in the wisdom of an independent judiciary is not confined to judges alone, but is shared by other members of the legal profession and by the public at large." Indeed an independent judiciary, able to rule fairly and without fear of retribution, has been essential not only to civil rights gains for all Americans, but also for maintaining the fabric of Democracy by protecting the minority from the tyranny of the majority.

Given the opportunity, many individuals in 1973—ranging from pro-choice governors to clergy of the most conservative churches—would have disposed of the six Supreme Court Justices who ruled in Roe vs. Wade that a woman's body is in fact her own and states could not pass laws denying women the ability to safely end unwanted pregnancies. Or more recently, many Democrats would have been thrilled with the opportunity in 2000 to dump the five Supreme Court Justices who ruled in Bush vs. Gore that Florida could not continue with their recount of votes for the Presidential election, which effectively delivered the Presidency to George W. Bush. Both of these cases had deep emotional roots, and if the justices had been pressured to make a judgment not on the rule of law, but instead to appease a special interest group in order to not face their vengeance, their decisions—and the history of the United States—would have been very different.

However, during the 2004 election President Bush and the Republican Party masked their homophobia by demonizing the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court as "activist judges" because the court ruled same sex couples should have the right to marry. Now, members of the extreme right have taken Bush's logic to its natural conclusion and have begun recalling an "activist judge" because they do not agree with one of his rulings. If they succeed, the outcome will be dangerous for all of us, regardless of political ideology.

This month the so-called Campaign for California Families took out formal recall papers against Sacramento Superior Court Judge Loren McMaster because of his recent ruling finding that AB 25 and AB 205 did not violate Proposition 22, an initiative passed in 2000 that defined marriage as one man and one woman. These new laws granted several rights and responsibilities to domestic partners registered in California, but married couples still have many more rights than domestic partners do. Based on this one decision to uphold a law passed by the Legislature, signed by the Governor, and not overturned in a referendum, these extremists are playing sour grape politics that will leave all of us picking up the pieces.

Some may argue that taking on the recall proponents will only "rile them up," but in case anyone has not been paying attention the last year, the extreme right is riled, is organized, and we need to fight back. Taking the recall threat seriously, California Association of Judges President James M. Mize issued a warning that "the justice system as we know it would be destroyed" if the recall succeeds.

Victory would embolden others with different agendas to adopt similar tactics, Mize said. "Honorable judges who make rulings appropriately based on law would eventually all be recalled. The only ones left would be those very, very few who are willing to make their decisions based on public opinion," Mize said.

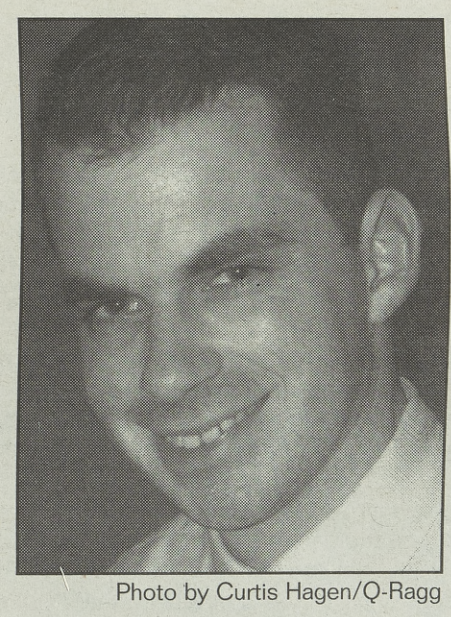

Photo by Curtis Hagen/Q-Ragg

Does our community need a clearer call to action? This is our fight, in our own backyard, about our civil rights, and the result will have state and national implications. We must seize this opportunity to show the world who the extreme right actually is: a group that does not believe in equal rights for Americans, and who will bully anyone—elected officials, clergy, and even judges—who do not agree with them. They have crossed the threshold that would transform the judiciary from an independent body to a group that checks polling numbers and focus groups before writing opinions. We must push them back, and defeat them so soundly and so decisively that the extremists will never use homophobia to bully the judiciary again.

By Nephi

JANUARY 2005

Aries—Never one to stand still for long, you enter the New Year full of typically robust spirit, determined to get that promotion or dream job you've been after. Use that magnificent Ram energy of yours to go for that dream job with bells on. Just remember to not neglect your nearest and dearest in the process. They need a good Ram now and again, too.

Taurus—A New Year and new horizons for all you bulls–mentally and physically. Travel and expansion makes you feel hemmed-in and restless–like a bull in a china shop. Your powerful urge for a sense of freedom and intellectual challenge may conflict with some responsibilities. And now would be a good time to tell that queen always putting unreasonable demands on your time to back off. But remember even Queens have feelings. So be gentle.

Gemini—Your attention should be focused on relationship issues, Sweetheart. There will be a real feeling of intensity to relationships issues–my lesbian sisters beware–and possibly an issue of survival, or at the least quite a significant change to a key relationship in your life.

Cancer—Like sister Gemini, focusing on relationships will be all the rage this month. With your planets showing the signs of love and communication connected with the really significant relationships in your life. These planets are all in Capricorn, giving a serious but very practical and grounded tone to these matters of the heart. Serious, restrictive Saturn is still lurking in your solar house of ego and identity. Remember, keep that temper in check and be a team player.

Leo—Sorry Leo, Queen of the jungle and lover of all things glamorous and dramatic, but the focus for you this month will be on the everyday stuff the rest of us mere mortals must face. I know you don't like dealing with the nitty gritty–really, it just doesn't suit your regal persona–but you'll just have to roll up your sleeves this month and sort out all those mundane jobs that need doing.

Virgo—Dutiful Virgo, you know all about serving (or is that servicing) others, putting your ego aside and you're happy doing so, for you recognize that every sign of the zodiac has their own important role to play to keep the world spinning. But everyone likes to let their hair down from time to time, forget their responsibilities for a while and enjoy a hedonistic, pleasure-seeking time–and this month, dear Virgo, it's your time to have fun, fun, fun. Let go and get funky wit yo bad self.

Libra—The focus for you this month is on the home front, with your ruler Venus, the Sun and Mercury all travelling through the area of your chart connected with family and domestic issues–amongst other things, neighbors, relatives and friends close by, you're unlikely to be drawn very far past your front door. Always on the lookout for objects d'art to make the home environment harmonious–this month you feel a strong urge to give your home a beautiful new facelift.

Scorpio—With your planetary co-ruler Mars attacking finance and resources, that's where much of your focus lies this month. Your mind spinning away, don't let it get out of control. Just take a deep breath and a tight grip on the wallet. You Scorpios love the exotic and unusual, but they doesn't come cheap–and it looks like you've spent a pretty penny on your Christmas packages this year. Didn't ya?

Sagittarius—The festive season may be over, but for you the party continues, with an abundance of friends and a casual sociability. That is until the reality of the money all this socializing is costing hits you square in the face. Go ahead, ignore my warning, but it only gets worse if you don't stay in control.

Capricorn—Relationships take center stage for you this month, and it looks like you are the one making all the moves. Once again, you bring up that one thing that you just can't let go of–and WHAM! Right in their face! Torn between your needs and the needs of others, there's a real push/pull effect and something has to give; you must decide, whose needs come first?

Aquarius—This is a quiet month for you, my dear, and a time for peaceful reflection. Don't fight this instinctive urge for solitude; take the time to recharge your batteries. Toward your birthday those around you will notice your increased vitality, especially in the midst of Winter. Don't let this special glow go to waste–put yourself out there, professionally and personally. This is the time to make other people sit up and take notice–and they will!

Pisces—With Uranus (snicker!) still continuing its slow journey through your zodiac sign, it's important to note that you are feeling an increasingly strong urge to do everything differently–not just in the sense of those yearly, soon-forgotten New Year's resolutions that everyone is chattering on about right now, but significantly and radically differently, with the desire to take a completely different, and even eccentric, approach to many areas of your life. Of course you feel this way every other week, but this time, you might just make it stick.

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TAROTSCOPES by Jessica Rabbit

Dear Jessica, Over the holidays my mom and I got into so many fights about my career choices, my sexuality, my appearance. We just seem to have this bad communication. How can we get past this and have a better relationship? -Buffalo, NY

Courtesy Photo by Andrea Young

Dear Seeker, Holidays are intense for families, and my heart goes out to you for the difficulties you encountered. However, it's not as bad as you think. I am reading you as the Empress, which is a major power card, and your mother as the Page of Wands, which is all about trying to manipulate forces beyond one's control. The Temperance card tells me that you have achieved a good balance in your life, and that you are living with strength and dignity, but the 7 of Wands indicates that your weakness is in trying to change your mother by being defiant rather than just loving her and accepting that you have different definitions of the word success. Your mom loves you, but there are things she is not willing to accept about your life right now. The hard part for you is to be able to see that you don't need her approval in order to feel fulfilled—that one is a major stumbling block for many gays and lesbians, and it's a bigger issue than one column (or even one book!) can cover. Suffice it to say that if you get to a place where you are more financially secure, she will worry less about the other things (plus, you are showing me that you wish you made more money, anyway). Lastly you have the Hierophant, or High Priest as your outcome card, which indicates that the result of this conflict will be increased wisdom, hopefully for both of you.

Dear Jessica, I know this person who I'm sure wants to hurt me in some way. My friends think I'm paranoid. What do you see? -Oakland, CA

Dear Seeker, You're not wrong, but this is mostly just about jealousy. You are the Sun, which is a beautiful card of achievement and success. In your favor you have the 4 of Wands- public recognition of your strength. When you are a strong person, others admire that, sometimes to the point of wanting to take your power from you. This person is coming up as the 10 of Pentacles and the 7 of Swords, which means he or she is sneakily trying to gain access to the security and stability you radiate. My advice is keep your distance from this psychic vampire, as indicated by the 8 of Wands. At the same time, don't walk away in fear. Instead, try to find your inner reserve of compassion for this person who feels so unstable in his/her life. Your success will not be taken from you if you choose not to give it over, as indicated by the King of Cups.

Dear Jessica, I am a lesbian who recently fell in love with a man. I don't know what happened in me, and it took me by surprise. My friends think I am crazy, and some of them are even mad at me! I don't know what to think. -Mill Valley, CA

Dear Seeker, It is the year 2005, and sexuality is a beautiful, fluid thing. We are working to get to a place in our culture where ALL sexual choices can be honored. You are coming up as the 6 of Cups, which is all about difficult decisions, and trying to balance the past with the present. He is coming up as the Paige of Cups, which indicates a level of fragility and vulnerability that is probably very appealing to you. What you need, before you go diving into a relationship, is some alone time, as indicated by the 4 of Swords: retreat, solitude, and deliberation. You will gain a greater level of security in yourself and your identity from this experience, as suggested by the 9 of Pentacles, but it will also test your resolve. I think he is actually more afraid of you than you are of him, which I see in the 5 of Cups. He is scared that if he opens up to you, what will happen to him if you decide you really don't like men and would rather stay a lesbian? But I don't think that is going to happen. Your action card is the Knight of Swords, which is about accepting duality in your life, complete with all of its joys and sorrows.

Jessica Rabbit is a lesbian psychic and tarot reader in the Bay Area. She reads privately for clients over the telephone or in person, and can be reached at jessica@sacredtarot.com, or via the web at www.sacredtarot.com. She also reads every Friday night at the White Horse Bar on Telegraph Avenue in Berkeley.

Lambda Players find a home

NOW A VACANT SPACE, IN SIX WEEKS, LAMBDA PLAYERS WILL TRANSFORM THIS BUILDING INTO A FULLY FUNCTIONING THEATER IN TIME TO DEBUT THE WORLD PREMIERE OF THE NEW LESBIAN COMEDY *JUST US GIRLS*

For 16 years the Lambda Players, Sacramento's only GLBT theatre troupe have been nomads, traveling from theater to theater to put on their shows. Often audience members could be heard to ask, "Which theater is your next show at?" But now they won't even need to wonder. The Lambda Players have at last found a home.

After two years of special fundraisers, including bringing nationally-known comediennes Suzanne Westenhoefer and Kate Clinton to perform at the Crest Theatre, the troupe has leased a former dance studio at 2724 17th Street, just off Broadway, in Sacramento.

"Now we are officially an 'off Broadway' theatre company," jokes technical director George Hansen III.

The group has been dreaming of a space of their own for the past 5 years. "There was a time when we thought this would never happen," relates Tom Swanner, president of the board of directors. "But the need for our own space became apparent several seasons ago. The price to use the facilities we rehearsed and performed in skyrocketted and other theatre companies were fighting for our regular timeslots. It became ridiculous."

"Many theatre-goers in Sacramento don't realize there are over 50 theatre companies in Sacramento and only about 10 theater spaces that are available to be rented," adds newest board member Larry McFall. "Even then, most theatres have a 2 year waiting list."

High rental fees and the lack of performance space forced the cancellation of Lambda Players' holiday cabaret show *Fruit Cocktail*. The group then faced the possibility that they would have to cancel a second show, the world premiere of the lesbian comedy *Just Us Girls*.

"We were at the end of our rope," says board member Brian Judd. "We've worked very hard the past few years to bring in quality material, increase production values, and really become a leader in Sacramento theatre. And we accomplished that, with a lot of help from the community. We've never had so many season subscribers, our sponsors have been phenomenal, our shows are again being nominated for awards, and everywhere we go we have people telling us they can't wait to see the next show. The support from our community is incredible. And here we were on the verge of having to cancel two shows in a row—we felt awful."

Indeed the group has come a long way, coming in second in the *Audience Favorite* category in *SN&Rs Best of* for local theatre companies, ahead of Sacramento Theatre Company and Music Circus. All that may have changed if it hadn't been for a fateful Thanksgiving Dinner.

"One of our acting troupe, Sunny Sorrells, who was in last season's *Trolling* was having Thanksgiving dinner when one of the guests was talking about a space he had for lease," explains board member Steve Buri. "They began to talk and several emails later, we were signing a lease."

The guest turned out to be Sacramento businessman Guy Crouch.

"He's been wonderful," says Swanner. "We couldn't have asked for someone better than Guy. He gave us a home."

Now the question is, how does a vacant building get turned into a functioning theatre, opening a world premiere production in just 6 weeks?

"It's not going to be easy," admits the company's artistic director Matthew Burlingame. "We're going to have to call in every favor, tap every possible resource, beg for every scrap we can get—I don't mind asking people for the spare change in their pocket if it gets us another can of paint, another piece of plywood, another audience chair. This community has supported us generously, but now, we have to ask everyone to dig a little deeper as we face these first few months."

Several small fundraisers by local supporters are in the planning stages, one hoping to raise money for chairs, another to purchase plywood to build a stage. The group will be recognizing those making donations on a lobby wall which will display the names of contributors.

Having a permanent theatre space was an idea driven by Swanner. "Every board of every nonprofit wants to leave some legacy that has bettered the group. Matthew and I joined the board at the same time and spent many hours talking about how great our own theatre would be. Now it's happened, and I'm so thrilled—it's new territory for us and to know that I was a part of that is just incredible."

"*It's been a long road,*" says Burlingame. "we want to make sure that even though this is a new theatre, that those who come to see our plays feel the history of our organization."

Lambda Players started 16 years ago, the dream of a few friends who wanted to put on plays. Their first play, Robert Patrick's *T-Shirts* debuted in the basement of the Lambda Center to an audience of 18 people.

"This theatre is the beginning of a new era for us, but it's built on the dreams, talent and hard work of many, many people who came before us," expresses Burlingame. "Charlie Peer, Clint Vigen, Neil Traganza, Michael D. Jackson, Bradley Moates, Marsha Swayze, West Ramsey, Maureen Gaynor, Steven Abate, Rand Martin, Thom Bach, Gregg Petersen—I could go on and on, and some we're not even aware of."

Lambda Players has a long and rich history of shows, performers and volunteers that have kept it going. Now it adds to that history with the first show to be performed in the new theatre: *Just Us Girls*.

"*Just Us Girls is a comedy written by* local playwright T. Swanner," states board member Laura Aikens. "We are proud that we get to present world premiers of new plays and to promote local talent. But what most people don't realize is Lambda Players is one of only a few theatres in the world that present a balance of both gay male focus and lesbian focus works; many companies are one or the other. And for the past several years we have been able to present some wonderful transgender characters and performances as well."

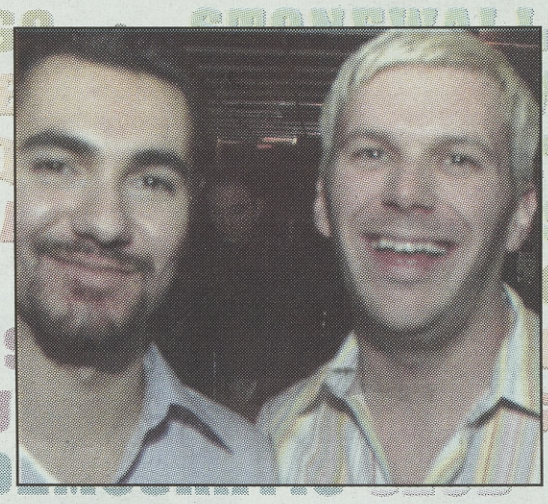
The theatre will officially open for business on Feb. 11, 2005. At this performance, the group will also unveil what their new home will be named.

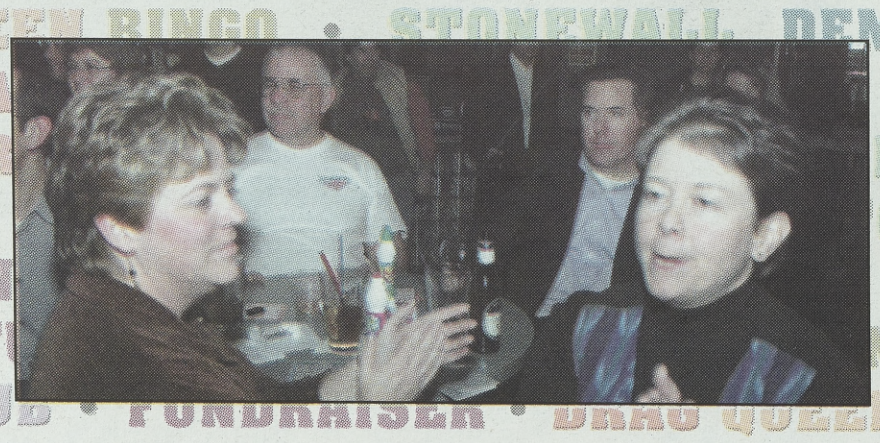
Lambda Players Wish List

If you have any of the following items you would like to donate to the Lambda Players new theatre, please contact them at: info@lambdaplayers.com or call 916.484.4742. Lambda Players is a nonprofit organization, your donations are tax deductable.

Upright Piano
Shelving
Office Supplies
Display Cases
Extention Cords
Painting Supplies
4'x8' Pieces of 3/4" Plywood
1"x4", 2"x4", 4"x4" Wood Planks
Drywall & Supplies
Church Pews/Benches
Carpeting
Home Depot Giftcards
and, of course, $$$

(real) G.Q.
FREE!
ValleyRainbowPages.com
Gay Lesbian Yellow Pages
Gay Quotient, Good Queers, Great Quality... Whatever you stand for in this Q-munity, you can find what you're looking for in the ValleyRainbowPages. Pick up your new 2004-5 edition today, and increase your G.Q.
916.444.2322
vrp.info





DRAG QUEEN BINGO • STONEWALL DEMOCRATIC CLUB • FUNDRAISER •
FUNDRAISER • DRAG QUEEN BINGO • STONEWALL
DRAG QUEEN BINGO • STONEWALL DEMOCRATIC CLUB • FUNDRAISER •
CLUB • FUNDRAISER • DRAG QUEEN BINGO • STONEWALL DEMOCRAT-
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CLUB • FUNDRAISER • DRAG QUEEN BINGO • STONEWALL DEMOCRAT-

CALENDAR SIGNING AT THE BOLT • BARE CHESTS • CALENDAR SIGNING AT THE BOLT • BARE CHESTS • CALENDAR SIGNING AT THE BOLT • BARE CHESTS •

Q SWANNER & JUDD 12

Ray & *Finding Neverland* are Oscar shoe-ins

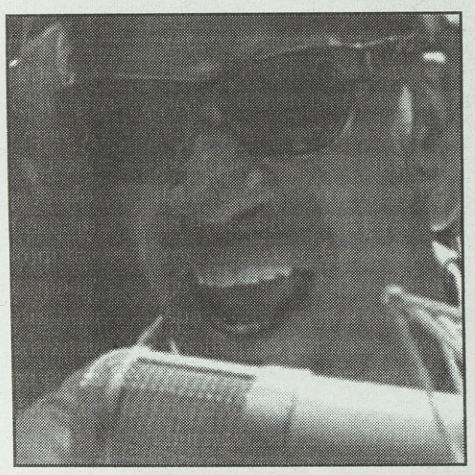
BITCH SLAPS
0 GREAT
1
2
3
4
5 WORST

Swanner: December was packed with new movies and we saw most of the new ones out there. I'd love to tell you they were all fantastic, but please, what are the chances?

Judd: What can I say about the holiday movies this year? The majority of them were lifeless and bland. Last week, I saw a movie every day and only one of them is worth remembering.

Swanner: My favorite was *Spanglish*, which is Adam Sandler's new film. I loved this movie. It's the story of a young Mexican mother and how she handles working for a wealthy Bel-Air family.

Judd: I came out of the theatre not feeling anything, but the more I've thought about *Spanglish* the more it has grown on me. The storytelling was done really well. The characters weren't subtle by any means, but



JAMIE FOXX IN RAY

unlike most movies of its genre *Spanglish* doesn't try to hammer you over the head with outlandish idiosyncrasies. For example, Cloris Leachman plays the loveable drunk mother, but she's not stereotypical or overdone. Everything about this movie is just right.

Swanner: I agree. James L Brooks, the director-writer, really knows how to tell a small story and keep it interesting. Most directors would have ended the movie with the character walking off into the sunset. Instead we got a real ending without it being a tragic one. I loved this movie and can't wait to see it again.

Judd: Another holiday movie that we both saw was *Phantom of the Opera*. I've seen the show twice on stage, and feel that I've outgrown it. It was a nice release as a closeted gay teenager, but now it does nothing for me—the movie was no different. I didn't care for the voices or direction. *Masquerade* is the only large company number in the show, and the camera was panning all over pausing only long enough to stop the audience from vomiting or to feature the breakdancer. Half the awe of large company numbers is to take in the set, see the choreography and watch the cast move together. I was expecting MGM and I got an Ashlee Simpson video.

Swanner: I love the way it was filmed. The camera moved around to keep the scenes from being dull—I thought your generation would enjoy the quick edits. I liked the direction and technically the film was wonderful. The Phantom had a rock star voice instead of musical theatre, but that's my only complaint.

Judd: My generation is full of idiots—I hold myself to a higher standard, thank you. We also saw *Beyond the Sea,* the Bobby Darin biopic. I thought it was going to be horrible, but I really enjoyed it and I was able to look past the fact that a 40-something actor was playing a 20-something pop crooner.

Swanner: Kevin Spacey did a great job playing Bobby Darin. Once you get past the age factor, *Beyond the Sea* is a good film. The acting was great, but Spacey as writer-director-producer-star really shines in this film.

Judd: I thought Spacey as writer-director-producer-star was a bit overboard. It makes Spacey out to be as egotistical as Darin was. But that does not detract from the fact that *Beyond the Sea* was a good film. Was there anything else we both saw this month? Another wonderful biopic this year was *Ray*. If anything can be said about 2004 it is that the majority of biopics were good—minus *Alexander*. (Retch and gag!) I hesitated to see *Ray* because I love Ray Charles (and was lucky enough to see him in concert at Memorial Auditorium) but I know that he was somewhat of a cad. I had a feeling they were going to sugar-coat his life—they didn't. Jamie Foxx's performance was flawless. Those of you who haven't seen *Ray* yet: go now!

Swanner: Jamie Foxx was really amazing. I never thought "I'm watching Jamie Foxx" until the glasses came off—that's a great performance! Speaking of...How about Ryan Reynolds in *Blade: Trinity*? He was shirtless most of the film.

Judd: Pity, I didn't see that one. But I did see my boyfriend Gael Garcia Bernal in *The Motorcycle Diaries*, another excellent biopic that chronicles a transcontinental journey made by a Ernesto "Che" Guevera and his friend. It featured my beautiful boyfriend Gael and some fantastic South American scenery. Which is nice because he and I are retiring to Cumana some day.

Swanner: You have a rich fantasy life. Maybe because your real one is so sad and boring. Anyway...*Blade: Trinity* was fun. Reynolds was the comic relief and just the right touch for this film. He's on the cover of this month's Men's Health. The rest of the film is a blur—something to do with vampires...did I mention Ryan is shirtless most of the film?

Judd: That's great. I'd comment more, but I'm too busy being sad and boring.

But, another movie I saw this month was *The Machinist,* starring the very hot Christian Bale. I had high hopes for this movie, but left the theatre feeling cheated. The direction and soundtrack were excellent. The physical changes Bale put his body through were amazing—standing at 6'1", he weighed 130 pounds for the film. I wanted to want this movie in my DVD library, but unfortunately the story wasn't there. Director Brad Anderson shows promise, hopefully he'll be able to deliver with a better script.

Swanner: Speaking of great scripts, I saw *Finding Neverland*. This is a guaranteed Best Picture nominee. Johnny Depp plays J.M. Barrie, who wrote *Peter Pan*. It's the story of how he got his inspiration for the book. It's a wonderful film and Johnny Depp proves himself to be a great actor, not just a "movie star". Depp is the only competition for Jamie Foxx in the best actor category.

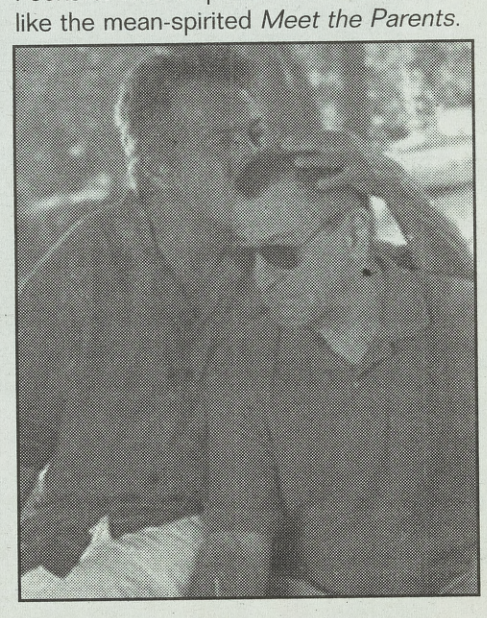
Judd: *The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou* was another film I saw and wanted to like, but only felt so-so about. I like Wes Anderson's style of writing and direction—he's a stickler for details. From a technical viewpoint, *Life Aquatic...* was wonderful. The direction was good, the humor typically dry Anderson humor, but it lacked heart. This is the first film he's done something without Owen Wilson as his co-writer, maybe that's why it lacked? I would recommend it only for die-hard Anderson fans.

Swanner: That's how I felt about *Ocean's 12*. I wanted to like it more than I did. It wouldn't have been too bad if it wasn't for some really dumb storylines. The only thing that worked for me was the Julia Roberts subplot. It was funny and original. The rest just kept trudging through the same tired story. If the cast wasn't attractive, I might have lost my mind. Finally, you saw *Flight of the Phoenix* and I saw *Meet the Fockers*. I guess I drew the right straw this time.

Judd: And you guessed right. *Flight of the Phoenix* was completely implausible. The characters were horrible. Dennis Quaid's character was an asshole, yet was made out to be the hero. It makes me wonder how Jimmy Stewart played the role in the original. Basically this movie was made for anti-intellectual Red State audiences.

THE LIFE AQUATIC...

Swanner: Then it should go over well in all those trailer parks. I liked *Meet The Fockers*. This surprised me since I didn't like the mean-spirited *Meet the Parents*.



MEET THE FOCKERS

I liked that the film has a good, funny script and doesn't rely on pratfalls for laughs. There are two elements that make this film funny: one is Hoffman and Streisand. These two work so well together, and are as funny and natural as though they've worked together for years. The second is Deniro's grandson by the other daughter, who is along for the trip. I hate cute kids in films as much as the next guy, but this kid is good. We didn't get to *Lemony Snicket...* because it was probably flooded with sweet, adorable, annoying children, and neither of us wanted to see *Fat Albert* just on principal.

Judd: I'll see *Meet the Fockers* towards the end of its run on a Sunday so I don't have to deal with the crowds. I liked *Meet The Parents* and have been looking forward to the sequel since I heard about it.

SWANNER

Ray — 2 bitchslaps
Spanglish — 0 bitchslaps
Beyond the Sea — 2 bitchslaps
Phantom of the Opera — 1 bitchslaps
Meet the Fockers — 1 bitchslaps
Ocean's 12 — 3 bitchslaps
Blade Trinity — 3 bitchslaps
Finding Neverland — 0 bitchslaps

JUDD

Ray — 1/2 bitchslaps
Spanglish — 1 1/2 bitchslaps
Beyond the Sea — 2 bitchslaps
Phantom of the Opera — 3 bitchslaps
Motorcycle Diaries — 1 bitchslap
The Machinist — 2 1/2 bitchslaps
Life Aquatic — 2 3/4 bitchslaps
Flight of the Phoenix — 3 bitchslaps

Closer is an uptown *Jerry Springer Show*

Closer

By Swanner & Judd

Swanner: When I go to the movies I usually try to identify with one of the characters in a film. If I can't identify with one of the characters I tend to lose interest and hate the movie. *Closer* is a different bird. Here is a movie about four really awful people, none who I could relate to but still I felt compelled to watch. I was like a voyeur spying on these four dysfunctional characters and I could completely separate my emotions from theirs. It was a very interesting character study.

Judd: Like you, I can't say that I know anyone so miserable, vile, and despicable as the four characters in this movie—nor would I want to—and after viewing *Closer* I can say that I wouldn't even want to be a fly on the wall in their freak-show lives. This movie is nothing more than an uptown Jerry Springer show, and trash is trash regardless if it dwells in a beaten up Airstream or a trendy West End loft.

Swanner: So I take it you didn't have a good time?

Judd: I did afterwards when I went to The Bolt with Larry and got drunk. A half-pitcher for $2. What a deal! I drank two of them.

Swanner: I'll admit that in the beginning I was really put off by these people. They had no redeeming qualities except for that fabulous apartment. Then I started to just watch them make these really terrible choices with their lives, it's like the guy you know who's just a magnet for drama. You stand back and watch the train wreck but you never get too close to get dirty. That's what I got from the film. I do have to say that the four leads were spectacular. Julia Roberts was really good. That's not to say the other three weren't as good, but Roberts stood out. Her performance and appearance were very raw. And of course Jude Law and Clive Owens were yummy.

Judd: Puh-leese! Julia was the weakest thing in the film. All the characters were horrible, but at least Law, Owens and Portman *knew* they were horrible. Roberts' character—Anna—was a total cooze but she played her like some innocent ingenue with really bad taste in men. It was almost as if Roberts was trying to solicit pity. And as far as her being raw and unmade-up—she's no spring chicken. Age and gravity are catching up with her.

Swanner: Don't you talk that way about Julia! This was a really big stretch for her. She started the movie off being Julia, big smile and great hair Julia. By the end you could tell the situation was really eating away at her character. I think she was playing one of those women who always needs a man who's obsessed with her. She has that "I'm being stalked so he must really love me" kind of quality to her character. Portman is the best in the film overall. It's probably because her character is so different from all the others. She lives in a world of lies and deceptions while the rest seek truth in relationships. Yeah, right, truth in relationships...what morons.

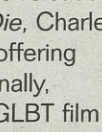
Judd: Julia (and her character) is too old to be that stupid. I don't think she was supposed to feel sorry for what she did and that was a flaw in the way that she played the part. Throughout the movie each character breaks down and weeps apologetically for their shitty behavior, but the viewer knows that it's hollow words and crocodile tears. Julia seemed to play her character with sincerity—which no one in this movie was supposed to have, aside from Portman whose sincerity lay in her blatant insincerity. By the way, I knew I was going hate this movie within the first 5 minutes when Portman was shown picking through Jude Law's purse (yes, purse!), whom she had just met.

Swanner: It reminds me of a Billy Joel song called appropriately *The Stranger*. The song is about how we all have a secret face that we hide from the people around us and bring it out when there's no one around. It's the face of the strange and we love to try it on. That's what I thought of during the film: these people were exposing that side of their characters. I got from the film that you should keep them secret, that being truthful is not a good thing in a relationship because we're all human, we all make mistakes and should just keep our mouths shut and hope we don't contract any STD's.

Judd: Hmm, I find it interesting that you say "...being truthful is not a good thing in a relationship..." rather than saying "...not always a good thing..." Interesting...very interesting...

Swanner: Shut up! You know what I meant. Bitter bitch! Oh, sorry, I guess I shouldn't be so *truthful*! I liked the movie although I never want to see it again. I'm giving it two bitch-slaps for the hateful story and the awful characters, but I applaud the product and that fabulous apartment.

Judd: Struck a nerve, have I? I rate the movie 4 bitchslaps. One for each character. The apartment was all right, but it was still London—Cold and damp. I'll take Southern Europe any day.



Swanner: Yeah, and we'll all miss you. Promise.

Swanner & Judd's Best and Worst of *2004*

Swanner: Every film critic finishes off the year with a list of the best and worst movies they saw. In a year of mediocre films it's hard to find 10 great films and no problem at all finding 20 bad ones. I wanted to start off with the good since that seems to be the shorter list. *Finding Neverland* is a wonderful film that unfortunately the studio seems to be waiting for the critics to honor before they'll release it nationwide. So often these days the really good movies never get a chance in the theatres because the studios have sunk all their money into the big "who cares" films hoping for a fast buck return. Johnny Depp should pick up his second Oscar nomination for this brilliant adaptation of the life of the man who wrote *Peter Pan*. Great cast, script and overall production.

Judd: Another film that earns a slot in the top ten is the recent release of *Spanglish*. True, I didn't really care for the film after my initial viewing, but the more I've thought about it, the more I've come to enjoy what I saw. The story was thoughtful without being mushy or trite, and the acting was top notch. Kudos to Adam Sandler for spreading his wings.

Swanner: I agree with *Spanglish*. It is an overall wonderful film with another great script and great performances. I think it's amazing what a new director can add to an ongoing project, and *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* was a great surprise. Alfonso Cuarón took the helm for this third Potter film and created a darker, scarier Hogwarts. He really had a feel for the books and brought out wonderful performances from his actors.

Judd: I was never a part of the "Dungeons and Dragons" set, so I wouldn't know about Harry Potter and the Golden Ring and all that nonsense. I do know I like the work Cuaron did with my boyfriend Gael, but that was back in 2001. And speaking of Gael, I would have to say that *The Motorcycle Diaries* earns a spot in the top ten.

Swanner: *Kinsey* and *Man on Fire* round out my top five. *Kinsey* was my favorite Bio-pic this year. I was just pulled into the film and really enjoyed the performances. *Man on Fire* was the best action film of the year with amazing performances from Denzel Washington and Dakota Fanning. While Kinsey should do well with Oscar nominations I know that both Washington and Fanning will be forgotten at Oscar time and that's too bad.

Judd: As I mentioned in the last issue this year really has been good for bio-pics, minus one, which we'll get to. I think the best bio-pic to come out this year was *Ray*. I liked *Kinsey*, but I liked *Ray* more. I felt it was more personable. *Man on Fire* made my list—but not in the "Best Of" category. Rounding out my top five is *Being Julia* and *The Incredibles*.

Swanner: I liked *Ray* as well but mostly for the great acting headed up by Jamie Foxx. Mark your Oscar ballots now, Foxx will win best actor. I also liked *The Incredibles*. It's in my top ten best.

Judd: Now we move on to our Top 10 Worst. *Man on Fire* starts out my list as one of this years over-produced pieces of dreck.

Swanner: Dreck?! You are pathetic. *Anchorman* was dreck. I mean I like Will Farrell but I'm starting to think that maybe he's supporting actor material and shouldn't try to do leads. Just look at *Elf*. (shudder)

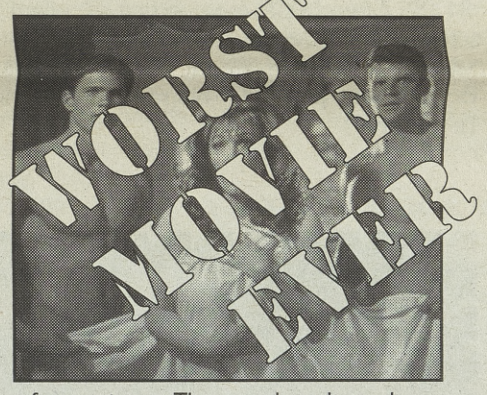
Judd: Whatever. *Man on Fire* was ham-fisted schlock! Another title to make my worst list would be *Closer*. Four horrible human beings torturing each other in one huge clusterf-ck and then when *everything explodes they all wonder* where it went wrong. It seemed to be a trend in 2004 for despicable characters to wallow in misery.

Swanner: How you can pick on *Closer* when *Sideways* is on all the best picture lists? *Sideways* was an unlikable film filled with unlikable people. I still don't understand what I'm not seeing here. I think they all really want to see this director succeed. I liked *Election* but *About Schmidt* wasn't very good. His next movie sounds just as dreadful. Maybe I just don't like on-the-road movies or sleep-around-the-week-before-your-wedding movies.

Judd: I didn't pick *Sideways* because I knew you would and I agree *Sideways* was about as horrible a movie that could be made. I don't know why the media and Hollywood keep promoting Alexander Payne and his movies. I still think it has something to do with the breeder sense of humor and using boring, miserable characters that act like assholes as a form of escapism. It falls along the lines of "I know someone like that" or "I wish I could be like him." Misery is all they know.

Swanner: I also hated *Hidalgo*. That's the stupid ass horse movie with Viggo Mortensen. It was a big budget "who cares" about a horse race across the Sahara Desert. I couldn't wait for it to end. And *Alfie*. Who green-lighted that picture? Jude Law is cute but cute don't cut it when you have to sit through two hours of watching a guy treating women like crap. I can watch *Jerry Springer* to see that. Finally, the worst movie of the year: *Alexander*. I can't even talk to Colin Farrell after that. They had everything you could possibly want to make a film. Great story, impressive cast and lots of money. I'm glad Alexander The Great has been dead all these years because this film would have killed him.

Judd: *Alexander* is the worst film of 2004. Oliver Stone needs to be put out



of our misery. The man hasn't made a decent film since the '80s. Rounding out my worst picks are two indie films that didn't receive nationwide releases, thank God: *Die, Mommie, Die*, Charles Busch's latest homophobic offering pawned off as humor; and finally, *Eating Out* which played at GLBT film festivals around the country featuring a hateful, spiteful, over-bearing hag who made me want to tear my hair out.

Swanner: What a year. I can only hope that 2005 is kinder to audiences than 2004 was. But don't get your hopes up because the first film we screen for 2005 is *Racing Stripes*, about a talking Zebra. Just kill me now!

Judd: I just went over IMDb's list of 2005 releases and it definitely looks like we're in for another crappy year. *Bewitched* and *The Honeymooners*? My arms are already folded across my chest in disgust.

Swanner's Best:
Finding Neverland, Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban, Kinsey Man on Fire, Spanglish

Judd's Best:
Spanglish, The Motorcycle Diaries, Ray, Finding Julia, The Incredibles

Swanner's Worst:
Anchorman, Sideways, Hildago, Alfie, Alexander

Judd's Worst:
Man on Fire; Closer, Die Mommie Die, Eating Out, Alexander

Hoopsters 2004-05 co-ed season week 3 results

The Bolt 41, Valley Rainbow Pages 38

Tipping off week 3, *Valley Rainbow Pages (VRP)* looked to pickup their first win of the season against a very strong & balanced team in *The Bolt*. Unfortunately for *VRP*, even the return of Mark Satre (10 rebs) and Scott Correll's (20pts, 12 reb, 2 stl) outstanding night could not overcome *The Bolt*. Led by Wes Wilkinson (15pts, 7 reb, 3 ast) and Jason Bryden (10pts, 10 reb, 3 ast); *The Bolt* narrowly picked up its 2nd win of the season in a closely fought battle. *The Bolt* also received excellent contributions from Bill Schipper (6pts, 4 reb) and Odelia Johns (5 reb, 2 ast). *The Bolt* is proving to be a very solid team with many players that can contribute with scoring and rebounding. *VRP* will have to wait at least one more week to earn their first victory, but are remaining competitive in each game and showing improvement!

Leyva's 30 *Won by forfeit* over Faces 34

In the most bizarre game of the season thus far *Leyva's* gained another check in the victory column. For the second week in a row, *Faces* was plagued by foul trouble and this week it literally cost them the game. With only 5 players in uniform, *Faces* had Jay Regala (6 pts) foul out towards the end of the second half leaving *Faces* to play with 4 players the remainder of the game. With less than a minute to play Sean Miller (12 pts, 9 Reb, 2 stl) also fouled out, leaving *Faces* with 3 players, but 4 players are required for play, and therefore, by league rules, *Faces* had to forfeit the game. The technicality overshadowed an excellent game between the two teams. *Faces* was lead by Sean Miller & Jeff Freitas (8 pts, 12 rebounds, 4 ast). *Leyva's* welcomed Brent Sims (12 pts, 11 reb) back to their lineup after injuring himself last week. Bradley Tompkins (10 pts, 3 reb, 6 stl) also gave an excellent contribution to *Leyva's* who moved to 2-1 on the season & is tied atop the league standings.

Club 21 34, Metro PCS 33

In the closest game of the season thus far, *Club 21* held off a second half surge by *Metro PCS* to win a nail biter by 1 point. *Metro PCS* had a couple chances to win the game, including a court heave from Pete Villalba (7 pts, 4 reb, 4 ast, 2 stl) at the buzzer that hit the back of the rim and bounced out. Reigning league MVP Erickson Aquino (16 pts, 8 reb, 3 ast, 3 stl, 2 blk) and *Club 21* managed to slow *Metro PCS*' dynamic duo, limiting Andrew Boulton's (13 pts, 12 reb, 3 stl) effectiveness by means of constant double and triple teaming. Mark Jacobson (4 pts, 8 reb) and Rob Davis (8 pts, 4 reb) helped *Club 21* out-rebound Metro PCS 31-22. *Metro PCS* received an excellent contribution from Kisha Harris (8 pts, 2 ast) for the second week in a row. In the end, poor free throw shooting from *Metro PCS* probably cost them the game, they were 5-11 as a team and Andrew Boulton was just 3-7. This match up in the second half of the season should be a barnburner!

Week 3 Leaders

Scoring Men:

1. Scott Correll (VRP) — 20
2. Erickson Aquino (Club 21) — 16
3. Wes Wilkinson (The Bolt) — 15
4. Andrew Boulton (Metro PCS) — 13
5. Brent Sims (Leyva's) & Sean Miller (Faces) — 12

Scoring Women:

1. Kisha Harris (Metro PCS) — 8
2. Paula Creamer (Faces) — 4
3. Irma Alvarez (Metro PCS) — 2

Rebounding Leaders:

1. Jeff Freitas (Faces), Scott Correll (VRP) & Andrew Boulton (Metro PCS) — 12
2. Brent Sims (Leyva's) — 11
3. Mark Satre (VRP) & Jason Bryden (The Bolt) — 10

Assist Leaders:

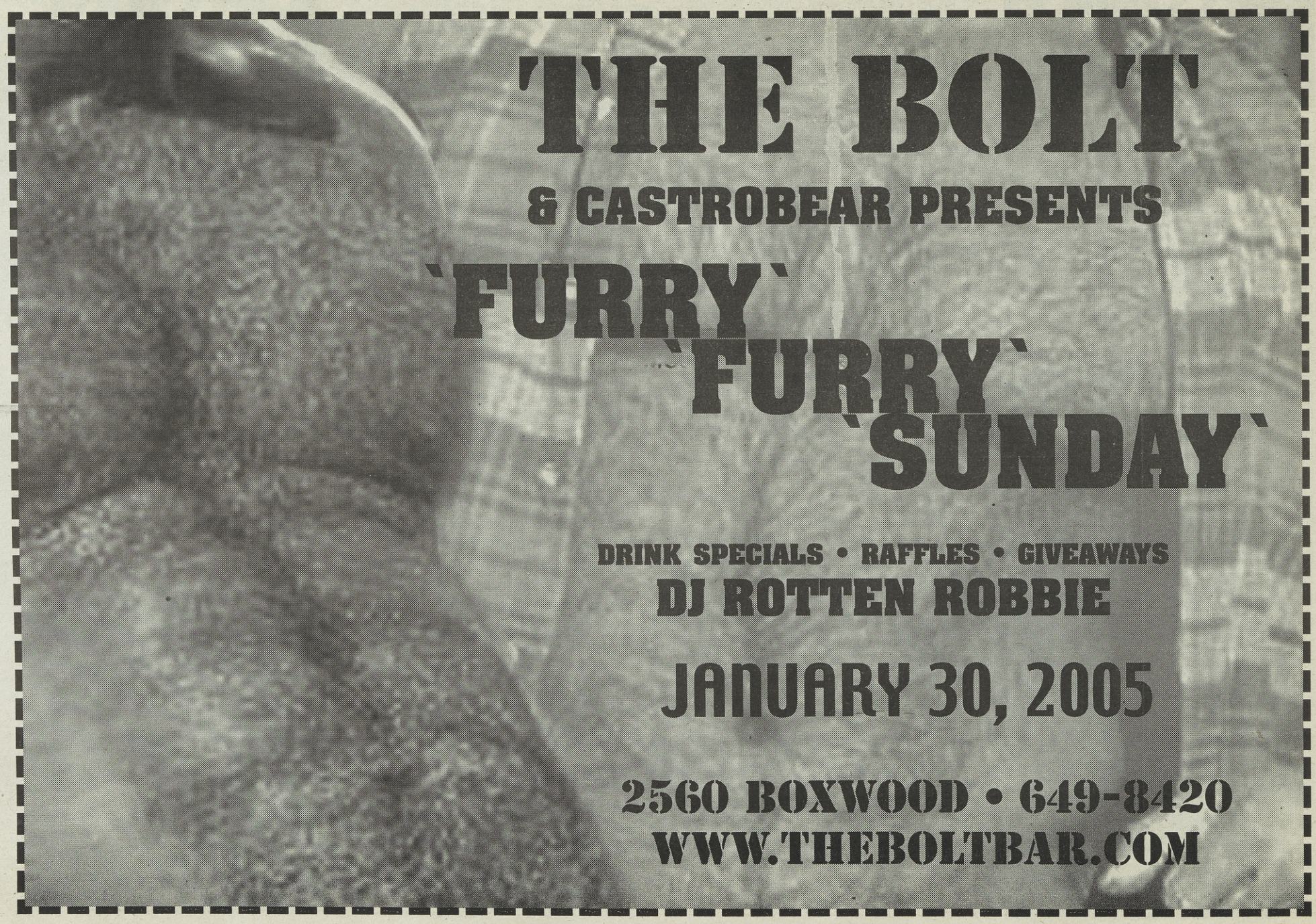
Kristy Schwee (The Bolt), Pete Villalba (Metro PCS) & Jeff Frietas (Face's) — 4

Steal Leaders:

1. Bradley Tompkins (Leyva's) — 6
2. Daniel Guerrero (The Bolt) — 5
3. Erickson Aquino (Club 21) & Andrew Boulton (Metro PCS) — 3

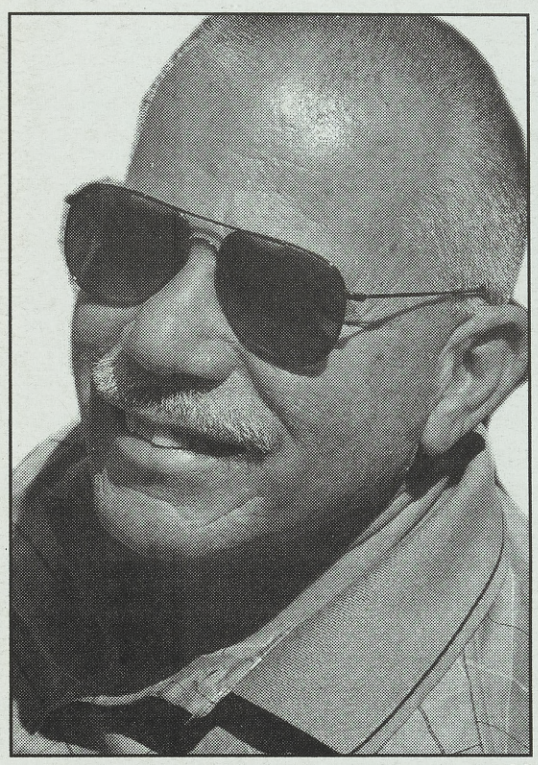
STANDINGS AFTER WEEK 3:

Club 21— 2-1
The Bolt — 2-1
Metro PCS — 2-1
Leyva's — 2-1
Faces — 1-2
Valley Rainbow Pages — 0-3



A Call To Arms

By Sam Catalano/Q-Ragg



were they when it came to making calls to Ohio or donating money to any of the anti-Bush campaigns? I attended a club meeting with 50 gay guys and looked around the room and didn't see one who had helped in the campaign. And on and on. OK, are these folks bad or evil—of course not. Or are they just normal Americans, 98% of whom do not get involved—they may vote or argue politics but heaven forbid they should walk a precinct.

So I ask myself, what, if anything, will motivate the LGBT community to stand up and fight for it's right not to be discriminated against—it's right to have our families cared for and protected—it's right to live and love as equals? Well, I think we are about to be put to the test. Sure the test may be a year away, but we need to start now. We need to come out. We need to start organizing. We need to look to our non-gay allies and friends for help now. We need to start collecting money now.

Everyone (and that's YOU) needs to look in the mirror and listen to your stories—"I know I always have some excuse not to get involved…" or "I have to get to the gym and don't have the time…" or "I have to spend my money on some new pretty thing for the house…" If you don't care, who will? It can't be just the same 11 people who do everything. This time they cannot save you from your selfishness or disinterest. Unless everyone starts caring, come 2006 we could be f--ked royally. We have a good chance of losing EVERYTHING the community has fought for for 30 years. Employment non-discrimination—gone! Hospital visitation—gone. Heath care for our partners—gone.

If you don't fight on your own behalf, then who will? If you don't care enough to vote, to register voters, to walk a precinct, then who will? There is no god who can guarantee that bad things can't happen to our community. Look at Ohio and the other 13 states where we became permanent 2nd class citizens. Trust Me, IT CAN AND WILL HAPPEN HERE. Damn it. Be afraid. Be worried. Get mad and angry. And GET INVOLVED!

SCATALANO@Q-RAGG.COM

FACT: In 2005 (if a special election is called by Arnold) or certainly in 2006, there will be on the ballot in California a constitutional amendment to either ban same sex marriage or an amendment to ban not only same sex marriage but also civil unions and any domestic partner benefits granted by the state or any governmental unit.

FEAR: Does the LGBT community have the desire or will to keep this amendment from passing? I fear not. Two examples of our lack of will. When we were faced with defeating Prop 22, the LBGT community came up with a measly $6 million, which works out to a gigantic 6 cents per gay and lesbian in CA. There is always money for the latest DVD or dinner out but not to fight discrimination. And we lost big time.

In this past election where the community had the choice between homohater, murderer and coward Bush or John Kerry, the response was minimal. I was the manager of the Coordinated Campaign office here in Sacramento, which means I saw nearly everyone involved in the local campaign. Now let me count on two hands the number of gays and lesbians who helped. I attended a comedy show a couple of days after the election with 500 lesbians who booed and hissed at the mention of Bush's name. But where

Clifford Del Carte

July 13, 1966 — Dec. 10, 2004,

Kathleen Montgomery of PFLAG remembers Sacramento's Clifford Carte

CLIFFORD CARTE, OUR LONG TIME SACRAMENTO PFLAG BOARD MEMBER AND DEAR FRIEND DIED DECEMBER 10, 2004. HIS DEATH WAS THE RESULT OF PNEUMONIA AS A COMPLICATION OF AIDS. HIS PASSING WAS UNEXPECTED, BUT PEACEFUL AND HE WAS SURROUNDED BY THOSE WHO LOVED HIM.

A world-class webmeister and computer "cool dude" (by no stretch of the imagination could you call him a "geek"), Clifford brought Sacramento PFLAG into the "techno-age" with our website and email. In the aftermath of the torture and murder of Matthew Shepherd, it was Clifford who first suggested that Sacramento PFLAG have a memorial service for all those who had died violently as a result of their actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender expression. From that suggestion, grew the annual PFLAG Service of Remembrance.

Clifford loved children and puppies. (Seriously, he did!) He was just that kind of guy with a huge heart and always ready to serve. He had a special compassion for homeless young people. Clifford had an incredible laugh that charmed everyone around him. It came from deep down inside him. Not a hearty "belly laugh", it just bubbled up and was more of a buoyant, joyful laugh. In fact, he usually looked like he was about to burst out laughing. He constantly marveled at both the delight and the absurdity of life.

Clifford treasured PFLAG and was passionate about its mission. Several years ago, Sacramento PFLAG went through some difficult times. Clifford was a key person who stepped forward and would not allow the chapter to close or be torn apart. He worked extra hard to bring people together, revitalize the chapter and make it the dynamic group it is today.

Clifford's favorite piece of classical music was Vivaldi's "Four Season". He hated rice and broccoli. He loved Cheech and Chong—If you wanted to get Clifford laughing hysterically, all you had to do was say, "Dave's not here."

I will greatly miss this wonderful soul. Clifford helped me to be a better mother to my children. I valued his insight and his advice. Clifford was among the smartest people I have ever known. He could more than "hold his own" in any forum and always had something valuable to contribute to any discussion. He incredibly generous and compassionate. And not just in theory. He practiced it. If he were approached by a homeless young person, Clifford would dig in his pocket and find something—even if it was only a few cents.

Clifford's friends are planning a memorial gathering in Sacramento on January 8th. Details to follow. You may contact Kathleen Montgomery at KCMame@earthlink.net for details. Condolences may be sent to Clifford's partner Paul Leitner at 1055 E. Suntan Lane, Palm Springs, CA 92264. Paul has specifically requested "no flowers, please"

Sacramento PFLAG is setting up the Clifford Carte Memorial with his partner Paul's blessing. All the fine points and details are not yet finalized but we do know that ALL funds received will be used to help LGBT youth with particular emphasis on those who are homeless. Please send contributions to Sacramento PFLAG in Clifford's name, and all donations will be put into the memorial fund. Sacramento PFLAG, PO Box 661855, Sacramento, CA 95866. A donation to an AIDS organization would be appropriate as well.

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STONEWALL DEMOCRATIC CLUB SACRAMENTO
4 FREEDOMS OF SPEECH FROM FEAR OF WORSHIP FROM WANT

Dear Mother, I have been dating a Latino man for the past year and we've decided to move in together, so we spent Christmas with his family so I could get to know them. He is everything I could ever want in a man: caring, soft-spoken, well-spoken, professional. So it was a shock that his family was so...forgive me...ghetto. It was like spending the holidays in a gang war. I love him and would never want to reject his family, but I don't see how someone so cultured came from that hellhole he called home. Do I tell him I am uncomfortable visiting his family or just keep my head low on holidays in case of drive-bys? Signed, Other Side Of The Tracks

Honey, sometimes being in love with someone requires some serious sacrifices, and that includes putting up with inlaws that drive you crazy. If Darrin could put up with Endora changing him into a jackass, you can handle wearing the right gang colors a few times a year. In this case you just have to dress appropriately—may I suggest a standard police issue bullet proof vest. Which would also be a nice gift for his Mother next Christmas. *Love, Mother*

Dear Mother, I come from a large, but close family and have a gay brother and a lesbian sister. I have been dating this great guy for the last couple months and have been in heaven. But it became hell last week when I finally invited him to spend the night at my place. He saw a picture of me and my brother on my dresser, which sparked him saying, "You dated Chet, too? He's a great lay isn't he?" I was mortified! I haven't been able to get intimate with him since. I think I love the guy, but every time he tries to kiss me I can't get the thought out of my head—he did my brother! Should I just try to get over it or turn my back on something potentially wonderful? Signed, My Brother Did It.

Oh, Girl! I know we all date each other's exes, but family members? Still, you need a wake up call. Suck it up and get over it. So he did your brother before he met you—so what. Living in Sacramento there's probably a few guys that you have had in common. Sooner or later it was bound to happen. But, Honey, that's the past, leave it there. He's with you now. Don't throw love away over petty things, its too dear a commodity. *Love, Mother*

Dear Mother, I am a member of an all-female support group. I am new to the group, but really like the atmosphere and the people. At the last meeting, I found out that one of the group is actually a male-to-female pre-op transsexual. A MAN! I talked to the administrator and she said the person was a woman on the inside and a lesbian and had the right to be there, I told her how uncomfortable I felt with a man being in the room with us while we are talking about being proud and out lesbian women. She told me I was being prejudice and judgmental. What do you think? Signed, Sister of Sappho

Good God, Honey, you need to lighten up. What do you think this person is a spy for the male gender, come to expose all the lesbian secrets he learns in these meetings? We face non-acceptance from most of the world every day. Let's not continue to carry it into our own ranks. My question to you is, if this person lives as a female and will be changing their body to be representative of the female gender, why are you so uncomfortable? Is it that *technically* this person still has a penis? There are thousands of individuals who were born in a body they don't feel is the sex they were meant to be. If you can't see past a few inches of unwanted flesh to see the person inside, you are no better than the religious-wrong breeders who keep us repressed. Don't be a hater.

Dear Mother, Before I even start, I just want to say I know this is petty, but I need some advice. I have a lover of seven years. Each Christmas and each birthday, I try to do something special for him. However, every year, his best friend finds a way to outdo me. I am so sick of it! And this year one of our friends made a joke about how they are each others "Platonic husbands." I was pissed! I know this is petty, but any advice? Signed, Pauly Petty Pants

Honey, you need a time out. Christmas is about giving and expressing love. It has nothing to do with who bought the best or most expensive gift. Don't get sucked up into this petty commercial version of holidays and birthdays. Be the bigger man and deal with it. And next year, remember a gift from the heart trumps any store bought bauble your lover's friend could ever buy. *Love, Mother*

EMAIL MOTHER AT: TALKTOMOTHER@Q-RAGG.COM

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Q-RAGG NEWSPAPER

717 K Street, Ste. 519, Sacramento CA 95814
newsline 916.247.7244 faxline 916.442.4006

WHAT IS NEWS

Many of us are used to thinking that news is something "beyond ourselves"—Federal Marriage Amendments, San Francisco Parades, and the like. But news that interests a community is sometimes about...YOU. As members of the Sacramento GLBT community, we sometimes get so bogged down in the news of the world, we lose track of what's going on in our own community. Q-Ragg wants to not only keep our community up to speed on what's going on within our city limits, but celebrate who we are and what accomplishments we make along the way. Q-Ragg strives to be Sacramento's hometown GLBT newspaper, reporting on the lives of our community.

KNOW THY NEIGHBOR

Some folks may think it's odd that Q-Ragg calls folks by their first names, uses a familiar voice for feature stories, and allows Q-Voice to present opinions that go against the gay status quo. Q-Ragg believes a community paper is a mirror of its hometown and that, in essence, we are all neighbors. We are one community with many voices, and however different those voices may be, we are all working, ultimately, for the same goal: a strong, cohesive community treated with equality and respect. To achieve that, we've got to get familiar with one another, and what our community has to offer us.

WWW.Q-RAGG.COM
SEND US YOUR Q-MUNITY NEWS

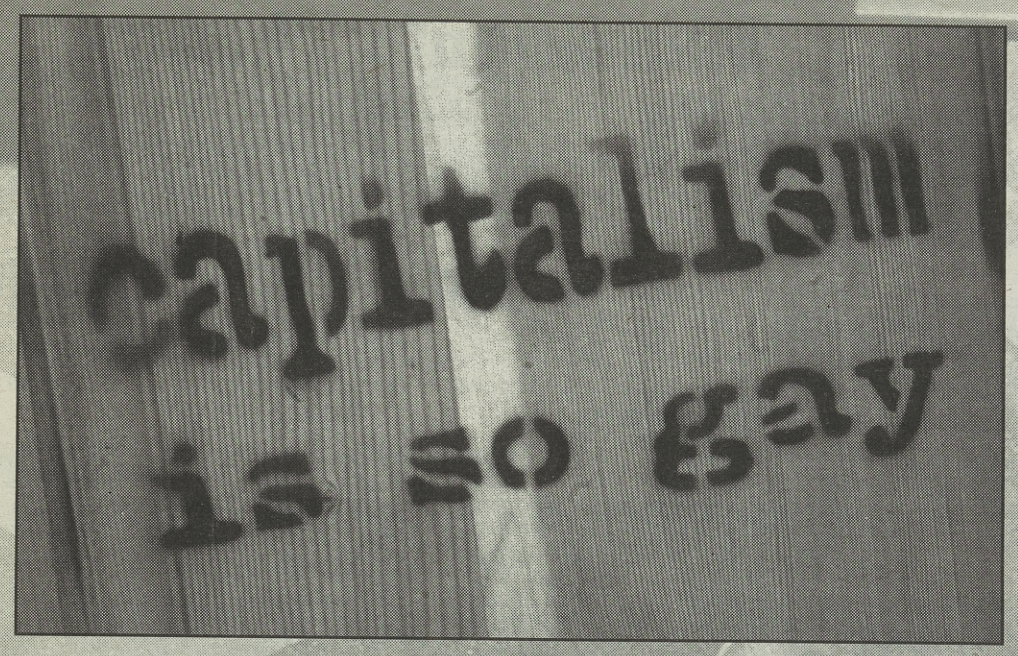
SEND US NEWS (news@q-ragg.com)

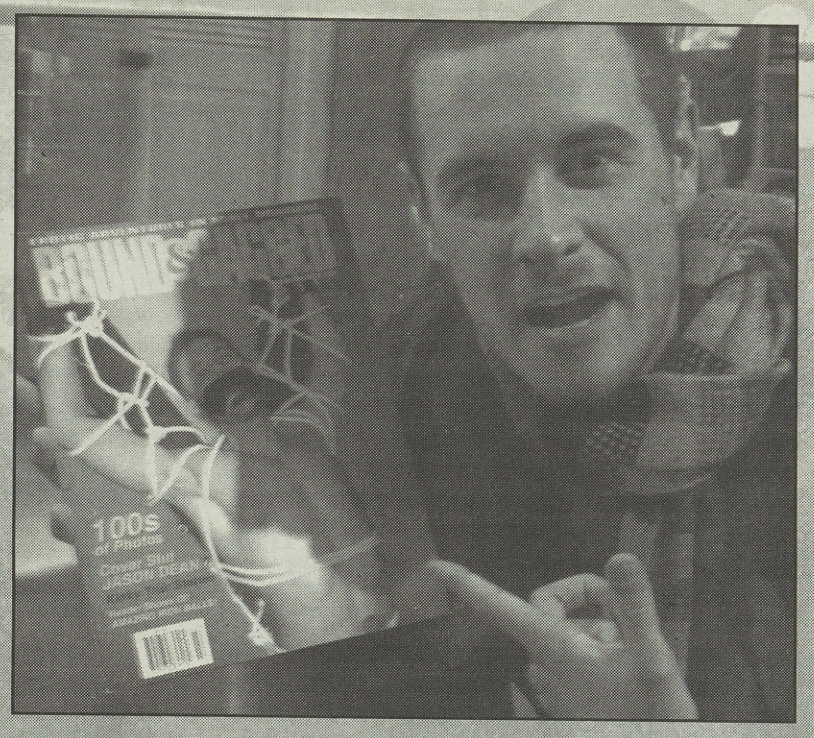
Q-Ragg wants to fill its pages with the Sacramento GLBT community and that means YOU. Keep our email and fax number handy, and when you come across something you think is interesting, send it to us. Stories such as the Lavender Library is now renting the new Queer As Folk, the Lambda Center got 20 new volunteers in one month, you just signed a book deal, you went to the capitol to protest and want to tell how it affected you,a new nonprofit just opened its doors, the Valley Rainbow Pages just hit record sales, your fundraiser had excellent attendance. All these are things we may overlook as not newsworthy, but Q-Ragg believes these are the things that reflect our community and who we are, as much as stories about the FMA and SF Pride, perhaps even more so, as they are close to home and involve the people and places we see on a regular basis.

SEND US EVENTS (events@q-ragg.com)

Q-Ragg wants to make certain your event is listed in our calendar. When submitting an event, please be certain to include the Who, What, When, Where and any details about the event we should know. Also, please include the name, phone number and email address of who to contact for follow-up information. Photos can be emailed to: photos@q-ragg.com (*Preferred photo type: tif or jpeg image, 300 dpi. Hard copy images may be mailed to our office, or dropped off in person during business hours.*)

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING Q- SACRAMENTO'S GLBT Q-MUNITY VOICE!





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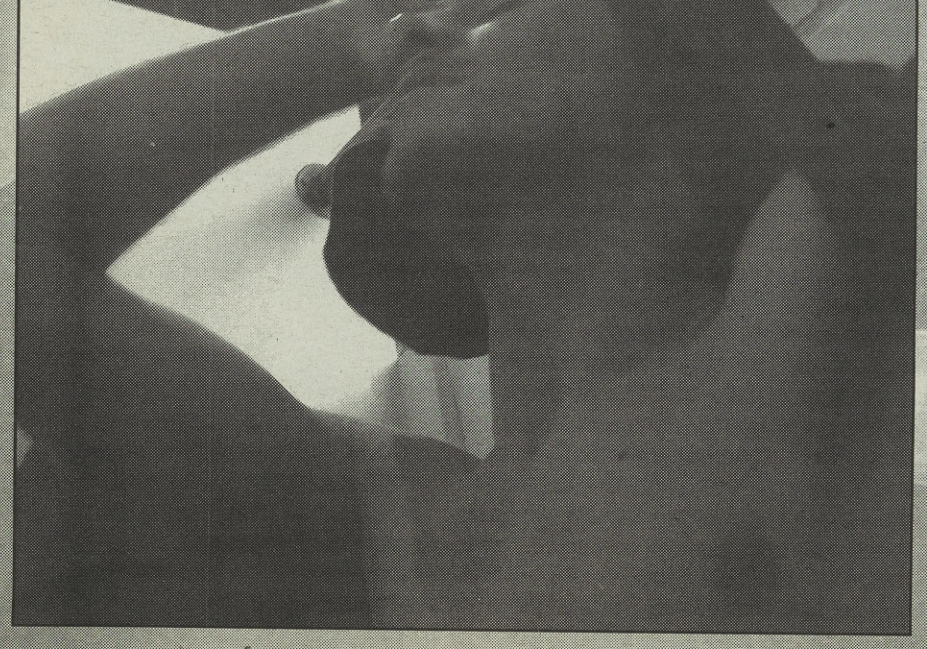

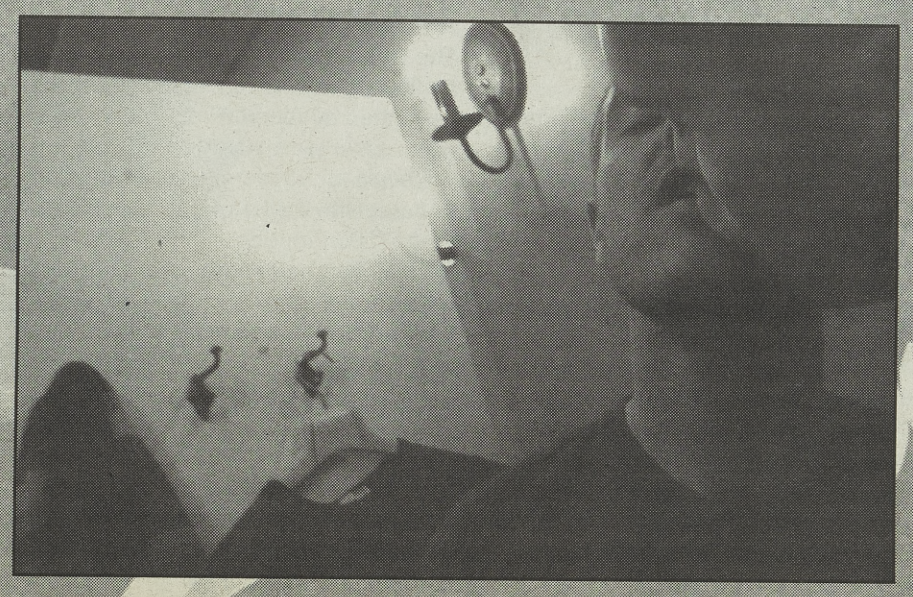

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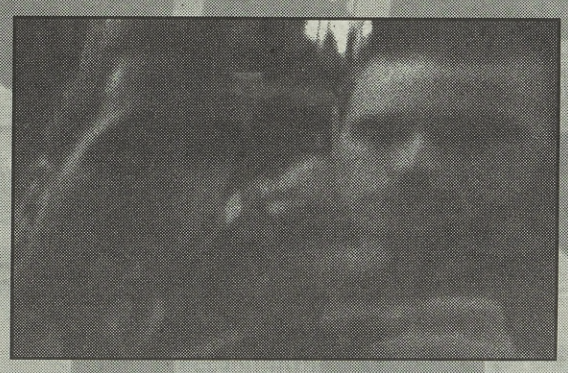
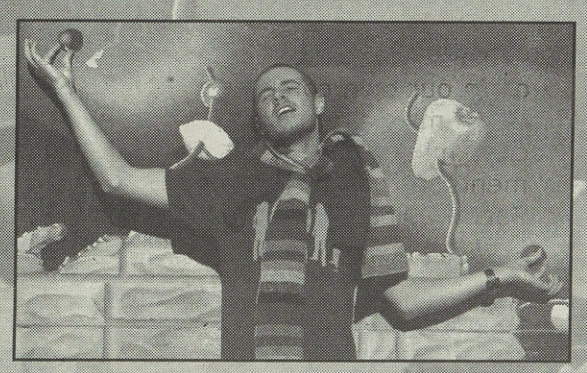
PHOTOGRAPHY
CURTIS HAGEN





Q-EVENTS
To get your event listed, send your press release to: Q-Ragg, 717 K Street, Suite 519, Sacramento, CA 95814 or fax 916.442.4009 You can also send your info to us in an email at events@q-ragg.com. Remember to include the who, what, where, when & why of your event!

January 2005

2 Sunday

Pancake Breakfast, Sac. Valley Leathermen, Community Fundraiser, 10am-1pm, FACES 20th And K Sts, $6 All You Can Eat, SVLclub.org

5 Wednesday

Introduction to Social Dancing, 6-7pm, sacdancesport.com, $39, Learn Cha-cha, Rumba, Jive, Tango, Waltz, and Quick Step. 359-5229

6 Thursday

Cabaret with Gayiel Von, 7-10pm, Delta King, 1000 Front St.

7 Friday

The Mollymawks, Club 21, Sacramento's newest and awesome all female band, jamminjo.com.

SVL installation Ceremony, The Bolt, 486-5500, www.svlclub.org

ISCCD-Chico 3-Day Extravaganza, Midge Mattel De Versailles And Emperor XII David Green, Edgewater Resort, Clear Lake, Contact Icp XII Midge Mattel De Versailles, 707.272.1016

Cabaret with Gayiel Von, 7-10pm, Delta King, 1000 Front St.

8 Saturday

Second Saturday Gallery Watch Llace, 6pm, 1414 21st St, 492-0558, Lavenderlibrary.org

Uptown Studios, 912 1/2 J St, 446-1082

2nd Saturday Potluck, Sac Gender Assoc., 6:30pm-9pm, Lambda Center, 1927 L St, 364-7212

Amy Boyd Comedy Show, Jammin' Jo Events, at Club 21, jamminjo.com, tickets going fast.

Cabaret with Gayiel Von, 7-10pm, Delta King, 1000 Front St.

12 Wednesday

Capital City Hoopsters weekly women's basketball Championship game, 8pm, more info: hoopsacramento@aol.com

Introduction to Social Dancing, 6-7pm, sacdancesport.com, $39, Learn Cha-cha, Rumba, Jive, Tango, Waltz, and Quick Step. 359-5229

13 Thursday

Cabaret with Gayiel Von, 7-10pm, Delta King, 1000 Front St.

14 Friday

Cabaret with Gayiel Von, 7-10pm, Delta King, 1000 Front St.

15 Saturday

The Open Book Ltd. will be sponsoring its first Open Mic Night. The event will be hosted by Albert Khoury, local musician and writer extraordinaire. Sign-ups will begin at 7:30pm, Performance 8pm,

Cabaret with Gayiel Von, 7-10pm, Delta King, 1000 Front St.

Lesbian Families Photo session for 2006 calendars ,4-9pm, tina@uptownstudios.net.

17 Monday

Lesbian Cancer Survivor group meeting, 6:30pm, Uptown Studios

19 Wednesday

Introduction to Social Dancing, 6-7pm, sacdancesport.com, $39, Learn Cha-cha, Rumba, Jive, Tango, Waltz, and Quick Step. 359-5229

20 Thursday

MCC Transgender Support Group, 6:30pm -9pm, Sacramento MCC Cathedral Of Promise, 10500 Chaplain Ave, Mather AFB, 916.364.4325

Cabaret with Gayiel Von, 7-10pm, Delta King, 1000 Front St.

21 Friday

Cabaret with Gayiel Von, 7-10pm, Delta King, 1000 Front St.

22 Saturday

Cabaret with Gayiel Von, 7-10pm, Delta King, 1000 Front St.

26 Wednesday

Introduction to Social Dancing, 6-7pm, sacdancesport.com, $39, Learn Cha-cha, Rumba, Jive, Tango, Waltz, and Quick Step. 359-5229

27 Thursday

Cabaret with Gayiel Von, 7-10pm, Delta King, 1000 Front St.

28 Friday

Cabaret with Gayiel Von, 7-10pm, Delta King, 1000 Front St.

29 Saturday

Cabaret with Gayiel Von, 7-10pm, Delta King, 1000 Front St.

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Sacramento Theatre

Evita

Presented by the Davis Musical Theatre Company. It opens at 2:15pm Sunday and continues at 8:15pm Thursday, 2:15pm Jan. 9, 8:15pm Fri. and Sat. and 2:15pm Sun. from Jan. 14 thru Jan. 30. Varsity Theatre, 616 Second St., Davis. $15 general, $12 seniors and students. (530) 756-3682.

Annie

The Magic Circle Theatre production opens at 8pm next Friday and continues at 8pm Fri. and Sat. and 2pm Sun., thru Feb. 12. Roseville Theatre, 241 Vernon St., Roseville. $19 general, $16 seniors and students, $6 ages 11 and younger. (916) 782-1777.

And the Dream Goes On!

The California Musical Theatre presents the Martin Luther King Jr. Theatre Project, a celebration in song, word and dance. It opens at 8pm next Friday and continues at 8pm Thur.-Sat., 2pm Sat., 4pm Sun., thru Jan. 16. California State University, Sacramento, University Theater, 6000 J St. Tickets are free 45 minutes before show time at the box office. (916) 557-1999.

Q-RAGG BEST BET

Pageant

A musical spoof of beauty pageants with men portraying the female contestants. The laugh-filled satire is presented by the Studio Theatre. Extended shows continue at 8pm Thur. and Fri., 5 and 8:30pm Sat., 2pm Sun., thru February. 1028 R St. $17-$20. (916) 446-2668.

Blithe Spirit

Noel Coward's comedy is presented by Chautauqua Playhouse. It opens at 8pm next Friday and continues at 8pm Fri. and Sat., 2pm Jan. 23, 30 and Feb. 6, thru Feb. 12. 5325 Engle Road, Carmichael. $12 general, $11 seniors and students. (916) 489-7529.

Dear Brutus

J.M. Barrie's play is presented by the Actor's Theatre of Sacramento. It opens at 8pm next Friday and continues at 8pm Fri. and Sat., 2pm Sun., thru Jan. 30. $14 Fri. and Sat., $12 Sun., $2 discount for seniors and students. 1616 Del Paso Blvd. (916) 925-6579.

The Vagina Monologues

SacActors.Com produces and directs Eve Ensler's funny and provocative play with rotating casts. Performances have been extended, with a holiday break, and will resume next Friday at 8 Fri., 7 and 9pm Sat., 2pm Sun., thru Feb. 27. Wm. J. Geery Theater, 2130 L St. $17.50 general, $14.50 seniors, students. (916) 739-0654.

A Single Woman

The Nevada Shakespeare Company's touring production is co-presented by California Stage. It opens at 8pm next Friday and continues at 8pm Fri. and Sat., 2pm Sun., thru Jan. 30. 1723 25th St. $19 general, $15 seniors, students and SARTA members. (916) 451-5822.

Steel Magnolias

Robert Harling's comedic drama about a group of women who cry and laugh through life's hardships and triumphs is presented by Runaway Stage Productions. It opens at 8pm next Friday and continues at 8pm Fri. and Sat., 2pm Sun., thru Jan. 30. 24th Street Theatre, 2791 24th St. $17 general, $15 seniors, students and SARTA members, $12 ages 12 and younger. (916) 207-1226.

Submit your theatre listing at: events@q-ragg.com

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AIDS-HIV Services

Breaking Barriers, 447-AIDS
www.breakingbarriers-sacramento.org
Capitol City AIDS Fund
www.capcityaidsfund.org

Arts & Entertainment

Lambda Players, 484-4742
www.lambdaplayers.com
Lavender Library, 492-0558,
www.lavenderlibrary.org
Sacramento Men's Chorus 484-5789
www.SacMensChorus.org.
Open Book, Ltd.
www.openbookltd.com
Uptown Studios, 446–1082
912 1/2 J St., www.uptownstudiosgallery.com

Bars/Nightclubs

The Bolt, 649-8420
2560 Boxwood, www.theboltbar.com
Club 21, 443-1537
1119 21st St, www.club21sacramento.com
FACES Nightclub, 448-7798
20th & K, www.faces.net

Business Resources

Rainbow Chamber Commerce, 532-3347
www.rainbowchamber.com
Valley Rainbow Pages, 444-2322
www.valleyrainbowpages.com

Family Support

Sacramento PFLAG, 978-0410
www.sacramentopflag.com

Graphic & Web Design

Paperclip Promotions, 213-3204
pcmpromotions@comcast.net

Insurance Services

David C. Larson-Farmer's, 788-4215

Men's Organizations

Sac. Valley Leathermen, 486-5500
www.svlclub.org
Sacramento Valley Bears
www.sacvalleybears.org

Photography

Photography by Larry, 645-8447

Political Groups

Stonewall Democrats, 359-1040
www.sacstonewall.org

Printing/Copying

Sir Speedy, 443-7565
sirspeedysacto@sbcglobal.net

Real Estate Specialists

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PERSONALS—MEN

GWM—40 yrs old, 6'4" Brn, Hzl 350 furry, full beard. Loving big guy with big heart. Stable and comfortable with his sexuality and being a man. Seeking someone near my age who is smaller in height and body size, prefer a guy with some body hair, who is masculine but can be romantic as well. Please enclose a picture. Code: CASAC01

GBM—Happy, Healthy HIV+, non-smoker, social drinker, 32 yrs old, 6'1", sculpted body but down to earth. Looking for average to fit GHM or GWM into dancing, movies and romance. Send a reply, prefer with picture. Code CASAC02

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BISEXUAL	OTHER _____

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